THE HINDOO PATRIOT

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Summary of News.

Monday, 26th January.

A CORRESPONDENT of the *Times* (supposed to be Sir W. W. Hunter), in winding up an article on the recent Indian Congress, which he regards as a representative gathering, says:—"It is earnestly to be hoped that Her Majesty's Ministers may take advantage of the hoped-for lull in Irish obstruction to deal with the wants of India in the coming Parliament. There can be no real question as to the loyal spirit, in which those claims have been urged. The Indian Congress has ceased to be a strange and portentous phenomenon. It has indeed shown that it is only gradually arriving at an exact knowledge of the limits to which it may fairly ask Parliament to go. But whatever it has asked it has asked with moderation of expression, and with a fairly clear idea as to the main things needful. These are—a numerical expansion of the Legislative Councils, the annual discussion of the Budget in those Councils, the introduction of the elective principle, and the right of interpellation. Lord Cross's Bill of last Session went a long way in these directions; Lord Northbrook and his friends would go a little further; Mr. Bardlaugh's proposed Bill would go a good deal further. But the question as it now emerges before the English public is no longer one of a difference as to fundamental principles, but as to the degree in which those principles should be applied."

THE *Indian Daily News* writes:—There have been published lately several statements respecting the Ambicanagar concession, some of them seriously reflecting upon the conduct and honour of Rajah Sourindro Mohun Tagore. It has been imputed that he had sold concessions without having a clear title, and that he had no object but to get a large sum for such a concession. It was even intimated that he had no object but to get the money and stick to it, and there were even threats that proceedings would be taken against him to make him refund, if he did not do so voluntarily. These insinuations were a grave injustice to the Rajah. He had a title to the land: but apparently was not aware of the existence of a lease of part of the land in which a right was claimed. He has since endeavoured to come to a settlement respecting the lease: and has been willing to buy out the interest of the leaseholder. We understand that a settlement has now been come to, or is about to be effected, and the Rajah will be in a position to give all the rights he conceded to the Company or Syndicate. Should this be done, the course will be clear for the Company to be fully constituted, and to bring out the wealth which is believed to exist in Ambicanagar.

SERIOUS floods have taken place in France and Belgium, owing to the sudden and complete thaw that has set in.

A Municipal Secretary's Horse Allowance.—At a numerously attended meeting of the residents of Howrah and its surrounding villages held at the local Town Hall last Sunday evening, the question of the grant of horse allowance of Rs. 56 per mensem to Mr. A. Parsick, the newly appointed Secretary to the Howrah Municipality, was very keenly discussed, and the following resolution was carried with acclamation:—Proposed by Babu Amirta Lall Pyne, B. L., and seconded by Babu Jadu Nath Sinha—"That the meeting is of opinion that the grant of a horse allowance to the newly appointed Municipal Secretary of Howrah has been in direct contravention of the Resolution of the Municipal Commissioners of the 6th August 1890, and also in open violation of the law, as the allowance has been sanctioned by a body of gentlemen who have ceased to be Commissioners under the law, and that the subject has not been formally reopened with due notice as required by Bye Law 26. It is therefore resolved that a suitable representation on this subject be made under the signature of the Chairman of this meeting to the Local Government, and the Divisional Commissioner to rescind the resolution of the defunct Commissioners granting the horse allowance."

MR. QUINTON, Chief Commissioner of Assam, pays a short visit to Calcutta on the 11th and 12th of next month.

Tuesday, 27th Janury.

MESSRS. MCCARTHY and Sexton have returned to London from Boulogne. They express themselves as satisfied with their conference with Mr. O'Brien, and hope for a speedy settlement. Mr. O'Brien has formally repudiated any connection with the journal styled *the Insuppressible.*

THE rate of exchange for the adjustment of financial transactions between the British and Indian Governments for the year 1891-92 has been fixed at 1*s.* 6$\frac{1}{2}$*d.* the rupee.

IN commenting upon the Report of the Factory Commission the *Indian Daily News* observes with great force:—'Grandmotherly legislation, such as has been demanded in the name of philanthropy, is not only unnecessary for the protection of the *mill operatives* but would be calculated to do them more harm than good.' Legislation is unfortunately more grandmotherly now-a-days than ever, and if our contemporary could always afford to be fairminded he might well replace the words italicised by "girl-wives" without weakening the strength of his observations in any degree. The National Chamber of Commerce has strongly protested against this grandmotherly factory legislation and the letter of its Secretary, Babu Sitanath Roy, will repay perusal. "Service in mills and factories has become so popular, that workmen in these days embrace with avidity opportunities for employment in them in preference to their old and more congenial occupations of service in private gentlemen's houses, which even with the chance of getting, in addition to their wages, rich presents on occasions of Pujah festivals, marriage ceremonies, &c., &c., were not sufficiently remunerative. The beneficial effects of factory labour being pronounced the Committee of the Chamber earnestly requests the Government to pause and consider seriously before it proceeds to alter any condition of factory.

"The majority of the Factory Commission are of opinion that women who are now working with moving machinery, should, if they desire be individually exempt from the proposed restriction to eleven hours, and that the Factory Act should authorise Local Governments after good and sufficient enquiry, to exempt certain female operatives from the provisions of the section requiring a limit of so many hours of work. The Committee of the Chamber are in accord with this view. They go further, and say that no limitation whatsoever should be placed upon hours of adult labour. They consider it would be a great hardship imposed upon the female operatives, if they have to part with their inalienable right of doing what they might please with their time, and which had hitherto left them to be the best judges of what is necessary for their health and requirements.

"THE Factory Commission next recommend that there should be no separate class of operatives, recognised by law as young persons, and with this view, they ask the Government to raise the maximum age of children to fourteen. Against this exceptional recommendation, made by the Commission, the Committee raise their strong voice of dissent. By the standing custom of the country, girls are married far below that age. Nor does it unoften occur, that females in this country become mothers of children even at an age below fourteen. To shut them out, then, from whole time labour, until the boys and girls reach the age of fourteen, would, the Chamber submit, be a positive hardship to them. In this country boys (of course among workmen) at eleven or twelve begin to assume the full responsibilities of life. The diseases incident to the tropical climate often age the boy's parent so rapidly that a son or a daughter, aged eleven or twelve becomes the mainstay of the family. The practice already observed with respect to their employment should continue to exist, unless stronger reasons are brought forward for its disallowance. There is no necessity, under the other alternative, of recognising a separate class of operatives as young persons. It would only lead to complications embarrassing the actions of the mill-owners, who will then have to fix different hours of labour for them and different wages for their remuneration. The members of the Factory Commission recommend holidays once a week, *i.e.*, 52 days in a year. The Chamber, while admitting the necessity for giving such rest, would not make the rule too absolute."

Wednesday, 28th January.

THE Bombay Police are investigating the circumstances under which, on Wednesday night last, a Mahommedan, named Abdulla, three of his family, and a maidservant came by their death Being seized with a convulsive fit, Abdulla was the first to succumb. While attending to him, his brother suddenly fell to the ground calling for water, and expired. Abdulla's wife next took ill. She was crying over the dead bodies of her husband and his brother, when she was seized with a convulsive fit, and died immediately. Abdulla's mother next died in a similiar manner, and the servant expired about the same time. All the family were apparently enjoying good health, and in a short space of time after Abdulla was attacked by his strange illness, all five were corpses. The cause of death has not been ascertained, although the symptoms point to poisoning.

OF the several schemes for constructing the Chittagong-Assam Railway, the proposal submitted by Messrs. Duff Bruce, Matheson and Company, has been preferred by the Secretary of State, and is said to have received his sanction. One and a half millon of the capital is to be raised by the promoters under a three per cent guarantee and the remaining four and a-half advanced by the Secretary of State as required.

THE Leprosy Commission consisting of Dr. Buckmaster, Mr. Kanthack and Surgeon-Major Barclay reached Calcutta on the 18th instant, and will be rejoined in the course of this week by Dr. Rake and Surgeon-Major Thomson who have been at work in Burma for the past month. The Commission since it reached Bombay in November last has worked through the Bombay and Madras Presidencies, visiting Hyderabad also and the Nagpore and Jubbulpore districts of the Central Provinces. The members have had before them steadily as central objects to collect as much information as possible in regard to the number of persons afflicted with the disease to ascertain whether it is on the increase or decrease: the social condition of the people affected and their ideas about the complaint: as also the necessity and practicability of segregation, and whether if such a measure seemed to be called for, it should be introduced on a voluntary or compulsory system. Besides these the great pathological questions of the communicability of leprosy and of heredity are also under close investigation. After leaving Calcutta the Commission will pursue the enquiry in the N. W. Provinces and the Punjab. The Commission's task will in all probability be not brought to a close before the end of the year.

A SUCCESSOR has, it appears, at last been found for the office of Agent of the East Indian Railway, shortly to be vacated by Mr. Campbell. Major R. Gardiner, Manager of the Bhavnar-Gondal Railway, is said to have accepted the appointment, which had for some time been going a-begging.

THE case for the prosecution in the Jain Defamation Case was closed on the 22nd January; the examination of witnesses for the defence is now being proceeded with.

CALCUTTA will soon be visited by a lady balloonist in the person of Miss Van Tassal, who has created considerable excitement in Rangoon by her aerial ascents and parachute descents, going through various evolutions on the trapeze in the course of her flight through air.

A CORRESPONDENT writes from Darjiling as follows, under date the 20th instant:—Day before yesterday at about 10 A. M., a son of one Ashy Lepcha, a boy of 7 years of age, was shot dead by a student of the St. Paul's, a European by birth. The father of the boy came to lodge his complaint with the Police, but before his arrival Mr. Carter, the Rector of the School, came, and reported the matter to the Police Inspector, who took no notice of the complaint at first. Subsequently he sent one of his Assistants to enquire, and it turned out, as usual, that the student intended to kill a cat, and in its place shot the boy, who was playing with another, under a tree."

SIR ANDREW SCOBLE will present the annual report of the Countess of Dufferin's Fund on the 9th proximo at the General Meeting of the Association. The Viceroy will preside on the occasion.

Thursday, 29th January

THE North British Railway Company has brought an action against the Scotch Railway Union, claiming ifrom them twenty thousand pounds damages for nducing the employes of the Company to break their contracts. The North British Company have obtained an embargo on the funds.

IT is stated that since General Se'iverstoff was assassinated, the foreign section of the Russian Secret Police has been reorganised. The central office continues at Paris, and sub-agencies have been created at Zurich, Berne, and Geneva. Eighty-four new agents are to be appointed. Unfortunately the proceedings of these foreign police bureaux are well-known to the revolutionary committees, who have plenty of friends among the Secret Police.

THE prolonged frost is throwing thousands out of employment. The Thames at London Bridge is almost covered with floe ice.

GENERAL Boulanger has telegraphed to a Paris paper that, so far from abdicating, he remains what he always has been, namely, the head of the national Republican party, and servant of the Democracy.

THE Adi B ahmo Somaj has recei ed the following reply to a petition from Mr. O Donnell: "With reference to your letter No. 93 of the 9th instant, I have the honour to say that there is no intention to tabulate and compile Adi Somaj Brahmos as non-Hindus. For the purposes of statistics, however, it has been found necessary to distinguish ordinary Hindus from Theistic Hindus, and the only simple way of accomplishing this end in the vernacular languages of these provinces is to instruct enumerators to enter the former as Hindus and the latter as Brahmos. As the Census begins in less than 48 hours from the time I am writing this letter, I hope you will agree with me that it is practically impossible to issue further instructions at this period. You may, however, rely on me to see that your co-religionists appear as Hindus in the Census compilations."

LORD CROSS has notified that he is willing to renew for seven years from the 16th of August two million sterling of India Debentures, with interest at the rate of 3 per cent.

The United States Attorney-General has filed his answer in the Sayward case, and maintains that the seizure of the vessel by the United States cruiser was perfectly legal, and that the Washington Court has no power to annul the decision of the Sitka Court in the matter. The jurisdiction of the latter Court, he adds, depends on the extent of the domain of the United States in Behring's Sea, and this is a political question.

THE Marquis of Ripon, who was ordered by his medical adviser last November to cancel all his public engagements for some time, is stated to have greatly improved in health,

MR. Potter and Mr. Bellew, who were passengers in the S.S. *Rohilla*, which arrived in Calcutta on Tuesday evening, opened for their short season at the Royal on Saturday evening, supported by the full strength of the Crofton Company. Mrs. Potter's *repertoire* for the Calcutta season will include "La Tosca" (the opening piece), "She Stoops to Conquer," "Camille," "David Garric," "Frou Frou" "Lady of Lyons," and "Romeo and Juliet," which will probably be produced in the order named. Mr. Miln's season at the Corinthian has come to a close.

THE following dates are announced for holding the Criminal Sessions of Calcutta:—February, 18th April, 29th, July, 8th, August, 19th, November, 30th.

THE *Calcutta Gazette* publishes the following notification: "The right of sending up candidates for junior scholarships may, at the discretion of the Director of Public Instruction, be withheld for any period from any school—(*a*) which is convicted of wilful transgression or colourable evasion of the transfer rules for high schools, or (*b*) the maintenance of which appears to the Director of Public Instruction to be for any sufficient reason injurious to the interests of education, or (*c*) which is not certified by the inspector of schools as having been in existence since the 1st July next preceding the examination, and as qualified to teach up to the Entrance standard."

THE following business was transacted at the meeting of the Council of the Governor-General of India for the purpose of making Laws and Regulations held on Friday last:—The Bill to amend the Cattle-trespass Act, 1871, as amended, was passed. The Bill to amend the Inland Steam-vessels Act, 1884, was referred to a Select Committee, consisting of the Hon'ble Sir Andrew Scoble, the Hon'ble Sir A. Wilson, the Hon'ble Messrs. Halliday and Bliss, and Sir David Barbour, with instructions to report after one month. The Hon'ble Sir Andrew Scoble introduced a Bill to amend the law respecting the Court of the Judicial Commissioner of Oudh.

Friday, 30th January

THE first half-yearly departmental examination of 1891 of Assistant and Deputy Magistates in the Regulation and Non-Regulation districts, and of officers in the police, medical and forest departments, will be held on Monday, the 27th April 1891, and the following days.

IT is some years now since the question of providing a Central Railway Station in Calcutta agitated public opinion: the matter was not dropped, but its consideration merely deferred. With land rising in value, new buildings cropping up, &c., the scheme becomes more difficult and costly every year, and probably private interests will develop to such an extent during the next decade, that the proposal will lose its practicability.

Truth says:—'I hear that it is expected at Berlin and at Vienna that the furious persecutions which are now disgracing the Government of Russia will assuredly lead to some frightful catastrophe before many months have passed. It is not only the Jews who are being ruthlessly persecuted, but the Protestants and Roman Catholics also. The Czar is now positively execrated by the Finns who were formerly his most loyal subjects, in consequence of the insane attempts to complete the Russification of Finland. Russia has gone back forty years in a few months. Persons of rank, of the liberal professions, and of both sexes, are being ferociously flogged all over the country. At Warsaw, the other day, a Catholic priest, of exemplary character, received sixty strokes with a birch-rod, because he had endeavoured to hold a service in the open air, after his church had been closed by the police. The Emperor has abolished all the privileges of the provincial councils, trial by jury is suspended for an indefinite period, and the schools and Universities are ruled as if they were barracks or prisons. The political reaction which has gone on since the Emperor fell into the hands of his present advisers can only end either in a revolution or in a military or palace *coup d'etat*."

WE read in an English paper that an Irish lad who had been maimed while yet in the womb of his mother on account of a railway accident has sued the Railway Company for damages. Irishmen are seldom forgetful of their wrongs, real or imaginary.

THE Amir's health is reported to be steadily improving. His recent illness was severe almost to the point of danger.

THE Director-General of Post Offices in India has asked the Madras Railway authorities whether a further acceleration of speed on the North-West line by 30 minutes cannot be secured, as the present accelerated mail service between Madras and Bombay is much appreciated by the public. The matter is at present under the consideration of the Traffic Manager, Mr. L. S. Moss.

THE *Lahore paper* writes:—The more we follow the fortunes of Umra Khan of Jandol, the more we are convinced that our first estimate of the man—when he was a very small personage indeed—as the Napolean of North-east Afganistan, was justified. Five years ago his name was only known for some deeds of gallantry which he had performed in quarrels with other petty chiefs: for he was always, it seemed, in a state of siege by one or other of his neighbours. Gradually, however, he was not only grown as powerful as any of his neighbours, but has subdued them one by one, until, with the exception of the Amir of Afganistan and the Mehtar of Chitral, he is the only territorial chief of any note between our frontier and the Oxus. Fortunately he has always shown great readiness to be on good terms with the British Government; and his success will, therefore, be welcome, as it will greatly simplify matters to be able to reckon with one capable governor of the whole of this north-western No-man's Land.

LORD WENLOCK, the new Governor of Madras, has been created a Knight Grand Commander of the Indian Empire, and Lady Wenlock has received the decoration of the Imperial Order of the Crown of India.

THE Honorable Mr. P. Nolan, C. S., Secretary to the Government of Bengal, takes leave in March next.

HIS Highness the Maharaja of Cooch Behar, has gone to Cooch Behar and Her Highness the Maharani, with the Princes and Princesses, will follow by the middle of February. It has not yet been decided how long the Maharajah will stay at Cooch Behar. The Maharajah's health lately has not been satisfactory, and hence the change.

THE Delhi-Umballa-Kalka Railway will be worked by the Management of the East Indian line under the General Rules for working open lines of Railway in India in force on the latter line.

Saturday, 31rst January.

THE following is a copy of a telegram, which the President, Sobhabazar Provisional Committee, has received:—"Kindly lay before your Standing Committee that this Sabha of Pandits, in a crowded and enthusiastic meeting, held to-day at Maharani Puttia's house, emphatically protests against the Age of Consent Bill with the unequivocal authority of *Shastras*, and unanimously resolves to memorialise the Viceroy." The telegram has been sent by the Secretary, Brahmasram Rakshini Sabha.

A Darbhanga correspondent writes:— "His Highness the Maharajah Bahadur of Darbhanga called a meeting of the leading Pandits of his Sabha and a great many Sanskrit scholars of Mithila, on the 22nd instant, at his own palace. All these learned men recorded a vehement protest against the proposed Age of Consent Bill. An opinion of these men, explained by quotations from the Sanskrit texts, which govern the social and religious customs of the Hindus of these parts, is being sent to His Excellency the Viceroy. Besides this, a petition, signed by more than five hundred Hindu residents of Darbhanga, is also being despatched to the Government, soliciting His Excellency not to pass the Bill into law."

THE *Dainik* thus writes on the agitation against the Age of Consent Bill:—"A general agitation against the Bill is taking place. Protests have come from Madras, Bombay, and Punjab, and also from many parts in Bengal. The Maharajah of of Krishnaghur, the acknowledged leader of the Hindu society in Bengal, has protested against the Bill, and called a public meeting in his house. If the Government attaches no importance to the opinion, expressed by the Maharajah of Nuddea then it would be an insult to the whole Hindu community of Bengal. The protests have come not only from all Brahmin Pandits of Bengal, but all the aristocratic houses in Bengal have disapproved of the Bill."

THE *Dainik* advises the Government not to hurry on the Bill. Our contemporary writes:—"The British Indian Association has been greatly alarmed by the introduction of this Bill into the Legislative Council. It asked for six weeks' time for purposes of protestation against the Bill. During the Ilbert Bill agitation, sufficient time was allowed to the agitators against it. And why was not the same course adopted now? The Ilbert Bill concerned only one lakh of Anglo-Indians, but this Age of Consent Bill has affected the religion of twenty crores of Hindus, of whom four crores are in Bengal alone. Now, may we ask, why is it that what was done in the Ilbert Bill case, was not done with regard to this Bill. The example of the British Indian Association should be followed by other public Associations in this country. We hope, the Indian Association will soon protest against the Bill."

THE *Dainik* thus summarises the meetings in opposition to the Bill held in Calcutta and in the Mafassil:

Place of Meeting in Calcutta.	*Date.*	*President.*
Albert Hall.	5th Magh	Brambo Prata Samadhyai
Sabitri Sabha	8th Magh	Raja Peary Mohun Mukerjee
In Babu Nanda Krishna Basu's house (Bagbazar)	9th Magh	Pundit Chandra Shaker Churamani
Albert Hall	Do.	Raja Peary Mohun Mukerjee
Graduates meeting	Do.	Raja Peary Mohun Mukerjee
College Square	Do.	
Gourybarah	12th Magh	Pandit Kali Kamal Tarkapunchanan
Maharajah Kamal Krisna's house (Sovabazar)	11th Magh	Mohamohapadhaya Bhuban Mohun Bidyaratna.
Bandhab Library (Sikdar Bagan)	13th Do.	Pandit Kedarnath Bidyaratna.
Hatibagan	16th Do.	Pandit Titooram Sarbobhouma.
Star Theatre	15th Do.	Babu Saroda Charan Mitra, M.A.
Graduate's Meeting (Prasanno Kumar Thakur's Ghat)	Do.	
	16th Do.	Kumar Krisna Prasanna Sen.
Beadon Square	17th Do.	Paribrajak Krisna Prasanna Sen.
Wellington Square	18th Do.	Do.

Maffasil.

District.	*Village.*
Dacca ...	Saddar Station, Khasdi, Bhatpara, Hansgora.
Barisal ...	Sadder Station, Khilpera, Shadyakati, Pirozepore.
Naddea ...	Sadder Station, Lakhunia, Kustia, Hanskhali, Ghurni.
Burdwan ...	Dhaihat, Kalna.
Rajshahye	Panchaghar.
Darbhanga ...	Saddar Station.
Rungpore ...	Saddar Station Darbani, Habigunj, Dimla, Tushabhandar, Kursa, Naldanga, Kakina, Dogachia.
Mymensing ...	Sadder Station, Naggersbari, Ista, Muktagacha, Majihati.

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The Hindoo Patriot.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 1891.

ETEOLOGY OF THE CONSENT BILL.

SIR Andrew Scoble, in his "Statement of Objects and Reasons," alleges that "the evils attendant upon premature conception are so grave that the Government has determined to remove them, and the plan suggested is the Amendment of the Law of Consent" as the least liable to discussion about the sanctity of pledges and so forth. By this procedure, immediately we are brought face to face, not with the tangled question of religion, but the bearing upon physiology. Professional men are alone concerned in such a case. The medical authorities consulted "are of unanimous opinion that it is productive of great suffering and of permanent injury to child-wives and physical deterioration to the community to which they belong." The authorities appealed to are certain official and demi-official correspondence with Mofussil officers. This correspondence does not cover the whole ground, and the issue has been confined to "premature" and "immature" consummation. What the meaning the writers assigned to these terms, it is futile to ascertain. It is certain that the writers have not used the terms with anything like scientific precision. It is obvious, however, that they have not used the word "immature" with the object of indicating absolute unfitness of the sexes,. For that the law is clear and there can be no doubt; as to what is meant by "premature" is abunndantly uncertain and must be a matter of choice. There is always Old Adam at liberty in the world to rush at unnatural connection, but on the whole there is a natural repugnance to improper connection even in the most lascivious dogs and goats, and certain it is that in nature in the animal world hybrids are exceptionally rare and it follows that premature connection is not a matter which ordinarily comes under the purview of the physiologists and the legislators. We shall, therefore, avoid discussion about the question of suffering. As to permanent deterioration of the race we have to confine our attention to this branch of the subject. The scientists are almost silent as regards physical deterioration; instead of the learned officers consulted being unanimous of opinion, they scarcely touch upon it. That there is some suffering it is unquestionable, and the idea of consummation with a child wife is so revolting that those who have given their opinion have been led away more by sentimental reasons than by any consideration of actual facts. Those who have written on the subject, have been so induced by gus and high-falutin that we fail to trace any sober reasoning that the law on the subject is a "blot on Legislation" which is the bounden duty of the Government to remove. If such sentiments and prudery were to be resorted to in the act of legislation, there will be an end to all honest legislation. If every "blot" of the kind is to be removed, legislation would come to a dead block. Our Government is certainly not in the mood to put a stop to circumscision among the Mahomedans. Apart from sentimentalism there is very little in the way of sober fact. There is no question that the second ground of national deterioration is utterly unfounded. The medical gentlemen who have been consulted are almost silent on the subject, and they are anything but unanimous. The case cannot be otherwise. The facts to justify deterioration will call for a careful examination of the laws of Physiology and Biology, and the experience of men who are competent to pronounce an opinion on the subject are dead against any such deduction. The researches of Darwin and others will show that physical organic changes are the result of long continued habit, and they do not cause any immediate pain or suffering. It is the result of adaptation, choice "struggle for existence, natural selection" and other cognate laws, and altogether so gradual as not to be perceived, except in course of generations. The Hindus of Bengal have not become so weak and innervated, as they are, in any short time, that they may be altered; and even inferior animals resist impulse to change in a strong degree. Persistency of type is a powerful factor in nature, and in the human being so resists all causes of change that we reckon upon not years but ages to perceive its effects. Much has been made of late about climatic effect on human constitution, but the contrary seems to be the case as regards maturity. The writings of old Hindu law-givers show that thousand years do not suffice to produce any perceptible change. Parasara, the father of Vyasa, in his time found the age of maturity commencing at eleven, his words are, "above ten years," and Charaka and Susruta, hundreds of years before that, came to the same conclusion, and in two thousand years the alleged forcing and prematurity upon which the reformers dwell so lustily have not effected any perceptible change. Dr. Sircar wanted to make something of this, but notwithstanding his absurd theory of averages, came to no conclusion. We are free to confess that in course of time there must have been some change brought on, but it is so vast that it cannot be subject to any calculation. The same may be predicated of deterioration and cessation of fertility, power of reversion and so forth. We have no reason to support either by anology with lower animals, or by comparison, much less by positive facts to prove anything like deterioration of the nation by its recent alleged bad habits and customs. It should be observed also that as there is no proof of change in recent years of organic physiological law, so there is no proof whatever of our reverting to our primitive nature by the abandonment of those habits. By the Law of Nature, there must be a gradual change, but we are totally ignorant of the kind of change that takes place from time to time, and we cannot venture upon ever reverting to our type. The animals of the earlier ages are not reproduced after a time. Even talking of short periods we find that the armours that were easily borne by the Roundheads cannot now be borne by their successors. They are too heavy for ordinary use now, and there is no sign whatever that man is so improving or at all improving in the present days that the issue of the next generation will be able to rival the Roundheads. Anyhow the hope of restoring types by abandonment of certain habits is not consistent with the teachings of Darwin and his followers. It is evident, therefore, that the hope of preventing physical deterioration, if there be any, is vain in the extreme. Under the circumstances the change of law of consent is purely visionary. We have no guide and no hope for success in our endeavour to benefit our nation and it is a pity to behold the Government busy in making experiments in so futile a kind. No physiologist of any standing will ever for a moment fancy any success possible. A pigeon fancier by judicious treatment and crossing could work out a much better result. But no man meddles with human beings without coming to what the Hindu sage says "busying to make gods (Thakoors) and producing monkeys." For such a result our friends the reformers are abundantly welcome; but can we for a moment suppose that the Government is working for that? To our thinking the Government is acting under compulsion. It has to satisfy sensational reformers and gushing ladies—both men and women,—bent on reformation, it is to satisfy the gushing sisterhood of England. It has also another object and that is to undermine by a fluke the pledges given from time to time in the most solemn manner. The question is not a change in the law of religion, but merely an amendment of the Penal Code, and that of a character which gives some plausibility to the Viceroy when he says that he makes no alteration whatever to the substantive law of the people. It may also be a miscalculation of the feeling of the people in the matter. His Excellency may have been very badly advised. When Sir Romesh Chunder Mitter dwelt upon the solemn Proclamation of Her Majesty the Queen Empress it was evident from his silence that the Viceroy had not thought upon the subject and his advisers, one and all, from the Lieutenant-Governor down to the lowest Deputy Magistrates, never cast a thought on the subject.

OFFICIAL OPINION ON THE BILL.

IN order to strengthen its very weak position as much as possible the Government of India has published a batch of papers forwarded by Sir Steuart Bayley in recommending the Bill. The papers include a rambling letter of the Health Society which was duly shown up at its first appearance and which, therefore, demands no further notice at the present stage. Sir Steuart's letter speaks of the favorable opinion of the "highest non-official Indian authorities" among whom appears only one Indian name, namely, that of Babu Abhoy Churn Das, late a Deputy Collector. Of the opinion of this gentleman we desire no further to say than that he quotes, with approval, an opinion that the age limit should be 14 in case of wives and 12 in the case of prostitutes. The rest of Sir Steuart Bayley's "highest Indian authorities" are the several Divisional Commissioners and the Inspector General of Civil Hospitals who in their turn enclose opinions of their several subordinates, mostly Europeans. Not one independent non-official native opinion is quoted or sought, not even that of our eminent native physicians who would be able to throw a flood of light on the question. The public associations were not consulted, nor the learned Pandits whom Government entertains in its service or has honored with the title of Mamahopadhyaya. And when the latter venture to express their opinion, eagerly sought after by their countrymen as the trusted repositories of Governmental *Sastras*, Sir Alfred Croft bullies them and threatens them, because it happens to be unfavourable. Fortified with opinions like these Sir Steuart Bayley on the eve of retiring from service came to conclusions which he thus summarised:

That whereas it is a religious obligation among Hindus for their daughters to go through the ceremony of marriage before the age of puberty, it is no part of Hindu religion that they should be subjected to cohabitation with their husbands before that period.

That in Bengal menstruation (which only indicates the approach and not the completion of puberty) generally takes place at the age of 12 and 13, though it is frequently by artificial stimulation brought on at an earlier age.

That it is a general practice, the limits of which will be referred to hereafter, for Hindu girls, after they are married, but before puberty is even indicated, much less established to be subjected to more or frequent act of connexion with their husbands.

That apart from the moral abominations which sometimes accompany this practice, the physiological results are disastrous not only on the immediate health of the girl, leading constantly to injury and occasionally to death, but even more markedly so on her capacity for bearing healthy children thereafter.

That while this practice is viewed with growing disfavour by the educated men of the community, it is favoured and enforced by the influence of the women.

The Government will now have had pretty unequivocal expression of educated opinion which is unfavourable to the change even at the risk of the "skin-deep" charge, and if there is an appreciable difference of opinion between educated men it is certainly not competent in nor necessary for Government to take poll and astertain the "majority."

Sir Steuart does not conceal from himself that there will certainly be much opposition from the more conservative among the Hindus, but he considered that no other class was likely to be obstructive; and he had a firm conviction that legislation would be welcomed by "the great majority of the educated and really patriotic throughout the country." Sir Steuart strangely enough forgets that the "other classes" have not the slightest interest in the stability of our society and that "patriotism" without stake may afford to be very liberal indeed. Sir Steuart's published conclusions seem to be rather strange as he had assured a distinguished native physician on the eve of his departure for England that he was opposed to legislative interference in social matters. It is noticeable in the meantime that Sir Steuart's recommendation that in the case of non-wives the age limit should be 14 does not find legislative or patriotic favour though Hindus would not object to its being raised to forty for the matter of that.

We soon shall have occasion to analyse the the components of the "great majority of intelligent Hindus" and for the present shall only observe that if there be in the land only *one* Hindu family and no more that believes in the religious teachings of the *shastras* and in the penalties prescribed, no Government pretending religious toleration can interfere with customs based upon such teachings unless of course they partake of the *sati* character, which analogy by the way has not been spared by some. Educated Hindus but form a small part of the Hindu population and those that disregard Hindu customs *in toto* are much smaller in number. We and those that think with us, however, have some pretence to education, we suppose, and neither Government nor its supporters in the Press have taken the trouble of striking a ratio between the two educated classes so to speak. To talk of an intelligent majority therefore seems to be premature. But even the "intelligent majority' supposing it is as perverse as it is described to be, would not in religious and social matters of this character be entitled to represent the views and desires of the unintelligent majority who preponderate in number and have very pronounced opinions too in this concern.

We have partially noticed Sir Steuart's medical supporters elsewhere, coming to the lay opinion, we are surprised to find that generally speaking it does not support Sir Steuart's conclusions for legislative interference. We shall at once proceed to illustrate our meaning by quoting from the demi-official note of Mr. Lyall, the Commissioner of Chittagong :—

I do not think the age of consent can be raised without really interfering with the Hindu religion. Some girls do menstruate at 10 or thereabout, and to make it an offence for a husband to cohabit with such would be flying straight in the face of the dictates of the Hindu faith. I think the publicity which the second marriage ceremony gives to the time of a girl attaining puberty should be made use of in any legislation, if it is decided to legislate. If it be made rape for a Hindu husband to cohabit with his wife before the second marriage, and if persons who cause a husband and wife to live together before such second marriage are treated as abettors of rape, the system would die a natural death and we should probably have very few cases. This is almost what Nobin Babu proposes as his second scheme. The alternative is to leave the thing to public opinion.

Whatever is done, I fully agree with Nobin Babu that the leading pundits should be consulted.

"Nabin Babu," referred to in Mr. Lyall's letter is Babu Nabin Chunder Sen, Deputy Magistrate of Feni, the same we believe as the great poet. He says :—

It appears to me extremely doubtful how the evil can be checked by raising the age of consent in the Penal Code. In the first place the limit, unless raised to an extreme point, will be purely an arbitrary one. The age of puberty in our country varies from 12 to 14. If you take any age less than 14, many girls will be unprotected. If you accept 14 it will upset the Hindu and Mahomedan societies. Girls in our climate could not be left unmarried up to 14, nor would a girl of that age submit to the present system of marriage according to which husbands are chosen by parents and elderly relations. Unlike *Sultanism*, marriage is interwoven with the whole texture of our society, specially the Hindu society. You cannot alter the marriage system without disturbing the whole fabric. The remedy may thus prove worse than the disease.

The raising of the age of consent, in the next place will not prevent early marriages. It will, therefore, fail to secure its object. How will the law find out an offence committed in the strict privacy of the zenana? Except in the case of fatal accidents, of which only one instance has come to light in our lifetime, the law be utterly powerless to reach the offender. On the other hand, it will place a dreadful power in the hands of the police, which will enable it by a single breath to blast the honour of any family, however innocent or respectable. The matter every way is a most serious one. A law for dragging our women to police stations and courts of law, and thereby eternally disgracing them, ought not to be light-heartedly passed by our Government at the sole bidding of a Parsi agitator who knows as much of the inner working of our Hindu and Mahomedan society as any Englishman does.

Mr. Allen, Magistrate of Noakhally, says :—

Imprecations are invoked on the head of a father whose daughter menstruates while still unmarried in his house. He is considered to have destroyed a fœtus. From these texts I conclude that the compilers considered ten years to be the earliest age of menstraution. Mahomedan law fixes the earliest possible age of puberty in a woman at nine years. Medical authorities are divided on this question. A Babu, quoted apparently with approval by Dr. Chevers on page 672 of his Medical Juris-prudence, says: "The first menstruatiou of girls in good circumstances generally takes place when they are eleven years old even in some cases at ten years." Taking into consideration the facts that the texts in the Shastras and the ruling of Mahomedan law embody the accumulated experience of centuries upon this subject, I do not think that the probability of females in India attaining puberty shortly after the age of ten, say between ten and eleven years, can be safely left out of sight.

This consideration seems to me to be of the utmost importance. Legislation is made in this country for husbands who habitually sleep with immature wives, and who invariably have sexual intercourse with their wives, certainly as soon, if not sooner than, their wives attain puberty. If then the age of consent be raised, let us say to eleven years the probabilities of a man being convicted of rape for sexual connection with his own nubile wife are increased. This danger appears to me an indefensible argument against raising the age of consent under seetion 375, Indian Penal Code.

This question is more or less closely connected with that of early marriages and I believe it to be for this reason that advanced Brahmos are agitating in the matter. They think that the effect of altering the law as proposed would be to postpone marriages, The conservative Hindus think that such a measure would be an attack on the system of early marriages. They argue that early marriages and the association of wives with their husbands at an early age produce happy marriage. It is believed that the intellects of husband and wive associating together, when they are young and tender, assimilate more readily than they would do at a later age. Whatever we may think of this argument, I believe there is every reason to apprehend that a change in the law, by which the age of consent under section 375, Indian Penal Code, was raised, would meet with very strong opposition from the whole body of conservative Hindus.

Mr. Gupta, who is generally in sympathy with some reformative measure, is frank enough to admit :—

Indian girls generally attain puberty at 12 or 13, and the age of consent may be raised to 12, but some girls attain maturity at 11, and others not before 14; and I think it will be better to fix the date of a girl's first menstruation as her time of consent, and to make cohabitation before .menstruation penal. Proving menstruation is a matter of delicacy and difficulty, but the whole question is a delicate one, and proving the the exact age is none the less difficult, and I think, on the whole, it is better to fix a natural than arbitrary limit.

Mr. Nanda Krishna Bose takes a sensible and statesman-like view of the situation and is of opinion :—

It is futile to expect that early marriage will be stopped by raising the age of consent. This custom has *grown* among the people and is considered as a great restraint on immoral conduct. It is impolitic to hurry on changes which by altering an existing custom would alter the current of lives of myriads of people before wiser customs had grown up to take its place. If the age of consent is raised to 12 years. young couples must be prevented from comng together before the girls attain that age. For, if young persons are married and are allowed to come together, intercourse will probably take place and an offence under the Penal Code will be committed. The only way of effectively obviating this contingency is not to marry girls before they attain the age of 12 years. But the customs of early marriage will prevail until the people themselves change it for a better one. The result will be that offences will be committed by young couples. Who is to give the information? Not certainly,the young couples themselves or their parents and guardians, unless the girl is very much hurt. If she is hurt there are other sections in the Penal Code under which the person causing hurt may be made liable. If then the age of consent is raised the duty of finding out whether a young couple have had intercourse will inevitably fall upon the police officers. The moment this duty is imposed on them they will very soon make it a profitable business to watch such an interesting couple. Among educated classes early marriage is gradually disappearing, and I think for an alien Government the laissed faire policy is the best policy in the matter. You cannot force reform down the throat of an unwilling people. I altogether deprecate Government interference in a matter which must be left to the good sense of the people themselves and legislative interference in which is likely to do little good and be beset with gave practical difficulties.

Mr. Savage, who knows Hindu society well and has had the advantage of familiar acquaintance with Hindu physicians of light and leading, writes :—

If the age of consent were raised to 12, it is certain that at least one half of the married male inhabitants of this district would be liable to punishment under section 375, Indian Penal Code, and the Government would be compelled either to allow the law to be ignored or to take steps which would cause widespread discontent.

Mr. Powers, the Commissioner of Dacca, summarises:

Sexual intercourse by a man with his own wife who has menstrurated shall not be rape, whatever be her age.

Those who delight in drawing glowing pictures of universal suffering and horror should carefully read the following extract from the letter of Mr. Quinn, the Commissioner of Bhagalpur :—

The Civil Surgeon of Bhagulpore states that he has never made a *post-mortem* examination in any case in which death has been caused by sexual intercourse with an immature girl, and that he has never had to treat a case in which enquiries were so caused and the Assistant Surgeon's experience is the same.

From the above extracts it will be abundantly clear that the measure is viewed with anxiety, if not alarm, by many who are in direct touch with the people and are charged with looking after their welfare. Might not the Government well pause and think if it is wise and politic needlessly and unjustifiably to trample upon the cherished religious customs of the people! If this is the consensus of published official opinions we have reasons to believe that the unpublished opinions, if published, would much more materially weaken the hands of Government. They have, therefore, been wisely kept back.

Sir Steuart Bayley and his supporters complain that it is the ladies of the family that are primarily liable for bringing young people together. Possibly they are, for they who were once young know what is best for the young to do. They know and their Sastras teach that complete assimilation of the souls—the real object of Hindu marriage—is impossible but by youthful association, which is the true philosophy of early marriage and early consummation. It is not the individual that is married to the individual, but it is the individua tlhat is married into the family, whereby the bride's very *gotra* is changed and she becomes a veritable half of her lord. Any one paying the slightest attention to the *mantras* of Hindu marriage will perceive without difficulty that it is not a civil contract but is an ennobling *sanskara* with the highest spiritual object. That being so, early assimilation is imperative, or otherwise the very object of marriage is thwarted. A young Hindu couple in orthodox families never meet each other in day light and when but in night can be there communion. They sleep together off and no doubt but the anathema against pre-menstrual consummation is a sufficient safe-guard. For the matter of that the couple sleep together on the second night from the marriage when the delicious ceremonial of *fool sajya* is performed to which not the most perverted of minds can attribute a carnal character. There are other safe-guards in the shape of *Dviragamana* and similar other institutions which give these meetings, few and far between, the charm of ante-nuptial courtship when the newly married couple in the capacity of lovers just introduced to each other barely know each other and no more. Where then is the authority for the assumption that sleep and consummation are synonymous, unless those who start and maintain the theory be themselves punishable as guilty. Those that would predicate carnality of Hindu marriage merely by reason of its earliest *possible* consummation should carefully study the severe restrictions that regulate conjugal relationship throughout life. Modern civilization would laugh at the details as ridiculous interference with personal liberty, which, and not early consummation, really explains suffering and deterioration. Will Government legislate about *that* also?

THE LATE MR. BRADLAUGH.

MR. BRADLAUGH after oscillating between life and death during the last two weeks quietly expired on Friday morning. The news will fall as a thunderbolt upon the Indian Empire, the cause of which had been taken up by the great Liberal leader out of the fullness of his capacious heart and as an irresistible corrolary of his liberal instincts. Rising literally from the ranks by dint of sheer labour, perseverence, intellect and single minded devotion to duty, he had attained a position that would be the pride of any public man whether in England or elsewhere; and if in some stages of his eventful life some little unpopularity did attach to him he effectually survived it. Upon the lamentable death of Mr. Henry Fawcett the "Member for India," the choice of this country and its friends in England unanimously fell upon Mr. Bradlaugh as their Parliamentary champion, and how worthily he maintained the dignity of this distinguished though onerous position is well known to us all. Parliament that denied him access in the first instance, was soon won over to his view of things, and gradually came to lend a patient and careful hearing to all that he had to say whether in regard to Indian subjects or otherwise, and the result was that Indian subjects were no longer discussed before empty benches but generally drew well-filled houses. Every little tale of oppression found a ready hearing and we were in a fair way of having an established claim on Parliamentary attention when the rude hand of death snatched the champion away. Mr. Bradlaugh who earned his bread literally by the sweat of his brow was a hard worker both as a journalist and a public speaker, or as it was better known as a public reader, and his Parliamentary duty brought upon him an additional burden to which his already overworked constitution proved wholly unequal. It is very gratifying that even his opponents and critics pronounced him to be thoroughly honest and had the courage of his convictions. His powerful oratory, great debating power, accuracy of facts, single minded zeal in the cause of his adoption effectually secured him the esteem of those that opposed his views and gratitude of those whose cause he advocated and supported. The House of Commons that passed a resolution in 1880 excluding the "Iconoclast" from taking the oath, expunged the resolution unanimously while he was laid on his bed of death. This spontaneous and gracious acknowledgment of the superiority of his claims must have been gratifying to the dying man in his last moments, for he must have felt that he had not tried to do his duty in vain. The struggles in the discharge of those duties were lifelong and keen, and latterly he was never in good health and pulmonary complaints nearly laid him low year before last, shortly before his memorable visit to the Bombay Congress. There was sincere pleasure throughout India on his recovery and the ovation that awaited him in Bombay during his visit demonstrated in what high esteem he was held by the country. But he could not or rather would not allow himself rest so long as the cause of his adoption had not succeeded and the Indian Councils Bills made him work and work till his vitality was all gone. His powerful advocacy led to the abandonment of Lord Cross's Bill which sought to lay the axe to the root of truly representative Councils in India, and the adoption of Mr. Bradlaugh's amended Bill as supported by the last Congress and the country was only a matter of time. Sir John Gorst, however, saw his opportunity when the champion was confined to the bed of sickness from which never alas was he to rise again, and secured on Monday last the first reading of his Bill, which is identified with that of his Chief, Lord Cross. The cause of popular representation in our councils is now effectually thrown back and we do not alone know what is in store for us with our Parliamentary champion dead and gone, and the best of our leaders in this country either disabled by sickness or faction from doing their share of the work. To Mr. Bradlaugh's family and immediate friends we shall not attempt to offer any consolation, for our grief is greater than theirs, if possible, as our loss is irreparable. The whole country mourns the death and may the God of nations give it consolation and peace.

GOVERNMENT AND THE CONGRESS,

WHEN Sir Auckland Colvin severely criticised the national movement of India in his well-known letter to Mr. Allan Hume and Lord Dufferin shortly afterwards denounced it in strong terms in his famous speech, at the Calcutta St. Andrew's dinner, the public naturally came to believe that Government was hostile to the Congress. Anglo-Indian officials had from the beginning given indications of their unfriendly attitude towards the movement, but our countrymen were not for obvious reasons surprised at their conduct. The bureaucracy all the world over esteems salary and red tape above everything else and does not care to study the people and adapt its measures to the living realities of the times, and the Indian bureaucrat is no exception to the rule. He is, indeed, so jealous of his rights and privileges that he would not part with an iota of them. He has persuaded himself to believe that the British administration of India is the most perfect system of government that the world has not yet seen, and that Indian Civilians are being incapable of committing injustice and elevated above every form of human frailty. So long as the average Anglo-Indian official thinks thus of himself and of his work, it is only natural that he should resist, to the best of his power, the introduction of any reforms in the existing system of administration in the country. It is not, therefore, at all surprising that he should assume a hostile attitude towards the Congress movement. But better things are expected of a British statesman who is sent out from 'home' to govern the teeming and dumb millions of Her Majesty's Indian subjects. The august representative of the Queen Empress in India who, as a rule, receives his training in the free and healthy atmosphere of the British Parliament, should be above the narrow views of the average Anglo-Indian official. When the second National Congress assembled in the metropolis four years ago, the late Viceroy showed much courtesy and consideration to the delegates from the various provinces of the Empire by inviting them to meet him at the Government House. And the noble example set by him was imitated by Lord Connemara when the Congress held its third session in the capital of the Southern Presidency next year. But all this was suddenly changed, simply because Sir Ahmed Khan told Sir Auckland Colvin that the courtesy which had been shown to the assembled delegates at Calcutta and Madras by Lord Dufferin and Lord Connemara had been misconstrued into an approval of the Congress movement. Sir Auckland was convinced by the old Syed's arguments that in order to remove this impression from the Native public mind it was necessary that the head of the Government should denounce the Congress movement in a manner which could not be mistaken, and the late Viceroy proved an apt pupil at the hands of the Lieutenant Governor of the North Western Provinces. It is a great pity that a strong-minded man like Lord Dufferin allowed himself to be guided in this important matter by the advice of Sir Ahmed. The blunder committed by the late Viceroy caused much mischief and placed the Government in a false position. All sensible and right-minded persons, however, felt that that position was one which could not be maintained for any length of time and that the Government would soon find it necessary to correct the mistake that had been made.

The Government of India has now freely, frankly and openly avowed that whatever its objection may be to its own officials being present at the Congress meetings, it considers the movement sufficiently legitimate and sees no objection to private individuals joining and encouraging it. Sir Charles Elliott took the first opportunity to make known the views of the Government of India in this regard, in his reply to the Calcutta address, which views were shortly afterwards embodied in an open letter from the Governmeht of India to Mr. Hume which we noticed in our last issue. This was the most important part of his Honor's reply to the Deputation and we make room for it *in extenso*:

There has been a mistaken impression which has got abroad, that the Government is hostile to the Congress. That has been partly due to a misapprehension as to the intention of the orders of Government, which has held that in a country like India, where an official is hardly ever able to divest himself of his official position, it is difficult for him to show any interest, or take any share, in a movement like this, without its being supposed that he has a bias one way or the other in the matter. Now, it should be understood, that while the Government has no bias whatever either for or against the Congress, Government is extremely desirous of obtaining such information as the leaders of educated society, who form the Congress, are able to give it (applause). Those of you, gentlemen, who are sufficiently near to the seat of Government, know what anxious and painstaking care and efforts are made to learn the tone and tendency of public opinion on any of the great measures which are put forward, or are in any form contemplated. It is difficult for me to describe to those who don't know it the pains which are taken in this direction, and the extent to which circulars are sent out, and copies of bills circulated to every person who is thought likely to be able or willing to furnish the Government with useful information on contemplated measures. I have been surprised to learn to what extent that fact has failed to be recognised amongst those visitors from England who come here interested in the state of public opinion, and anxious to learn what the development of the new movement will be. I am glad, therefore, to take this opportunity, in the presence of you, gentlemen, who know the facts, and would contradict me if I was mistaken or exaggerating: I am glad to say that if the Government of India is, to a certain extent, and must be from its nature, a despotism, it is a despotism tempered in the highest degree by an anxious and careful endeavour to feel the pulse of the public, and to follow in the direction which the wisest and most influential members of the public indicate as the tendency which ought to be adopted. I do not suppose that any cautious statesmanlike mind can conceive that representative government, as it is understood in England, can be, in the present state of things, introduced into India; but all that representative government can give in the way of indicating its views as to what can be done, how any measure should be carried out, all that a representative government can supply, is supplied, when a community representated by such leaders of public opinion as you are, come forward to meet the Lieutenant-Gevernor and profess yourselves ready, at the sacrifice of your own time and your own private interests, to assist him by every means in your power with your advice and with the knowledge you possess. His Excellency the Viceroy has lately been moved to write a letter indicating these views of the Government, which letter is about to be published, and, therefore, I thought it right to take this opportunity of communicating those views to you assembled here. As you will hear them expressed in His Excellency's own words in a very short time, I shall be glad to have it understood what the feelings of the Government in respect of the Congress is. They consider it to be a movement which private persons are perfectly free to follow and to encourage; and if there be any danger of the younger and hotter-spirited educated members of society, running away with some too advanced ideas not fitted for the condition of society in India, Government trusts that such representatives of society as you are, will moderate those opinions with your sagacity and your experience.

The country and the Congress will be sincerely thankful to the Government for promulgation of this just policy in regard to what had well nigh come to be regarded and deprecated by it as a seditious and disloyal movement. The waverers will now know their mind and the supporters will have additional strength in feeling that they are not furthering a cause that the Government considers treasonable, unjust or objectionable. Whatever Lord Dufferin or Sir Auckland Colvin may have said in condemnation of the movement, the Government of India as such never enunciated its policy in regard to it formally, and we are glad to welcome the policy that is now enunciated though it be one of masterly inactivity. The Congress had occasion to solicit such enunciation when the Government forbade its servants to be present in its meetings and when Sir Charles Elliott in the course of his routine duty and in misapprehension of the orders of the India Government emphasized such prohibition. It is not in Sir Charles' nature to object to any thing that is for the good of the people with whom his sympathy has always been great and pronounced

As soon, therefore, as the mistake made by Sir Charles Elliott was noticed a supplementary circular was issued, we are told, correcting it and however much we may regret that the correction was not made known to the Congress at once we are glad that early opportunity is taken to set matters right. The purport of the original circular in which the orders of the Government of India had been misinterpreted was ostentatiously sent to the daily papers as a *communique* and common fairness demanded that the same course should have been pursued in regard to the amended circular ; but this latter document was kept strictly secret, and nothing would have been known about it but for the mention made in the letter addressed by Colonel Ardagh, the Private Secretary to the Viceroy, to Mr. Allan Hume. We agree with Mr. Hume that the best plan for both parties, the officials and the native community, would be to shake hands and make friends, and while tolerant of differences of opinion, and regarding the labours of the other party in the most charitable and sympathetic light, each on its own lines and according to its own opportunities, do its utmost to promote the welfare of India and her people. And we hope with the General Secretary of the Congress that within a few years the time may arrive for another step, and the Government instead of remaining neutral as now, may find itself in a position to cooperate heartily with the Congress in its good work. "Under any circumstances this candid and characteristically British declaration in favour of freedom of opinion and action in political matters in the cases of *all* private persons (no less important in its way than Lord Metcalfe's in favour of freedom of the press) ought to go] far to bridge the gulf which for years, unhappily, has been widening between the European official classes and the Indian public." We have always been surprised at the attitude] of apathy which Government maintains towards the Congress while occasionally taking into its confidence what are known as recognised public associations in certain matters. The Congress and these associations are all similarly constituted and have a common object and are conducted in an equally loyal spirit. Why then should the one with a more catholic basis and wider organisation be ostracised in this way and tabooed as a hot-bed of sedition? This state of affairs is unnatural and cannot, therefore, last long. The present declaration of neutrality is a gain by itself and the next step of active sympathy and co-operation, let us hope, will not be long in coming, though the Congress by its moderation and good sense will have to win it. The Government will then have the intelligent public opinion of India in matters political focussed in one common centre, which will be a great gain for administrative purposes.

Speaking of Congress demands in general the *Indian Daily News* sensibly observes:—"The *St. James' Gazette* calls the Indian National Congress an assembly of "Indian Home Rulers." This is wide of the mark. The most rabid Congresswallah's demands stop a way short of Home Rule. Indeed, if Parliament were to pass Mr. Bradlaugh's amended Bill, there would be little heard of Native aspirations towards any further extension of the principle of representative government for some years to come. The Bill in its main features practically proposes nothing more than Lord Dufferin recommended, and the late Viceroy's recommendations are none the less worthy of adoption, because the Congress has modified its claim in accordance with their tenor and purport." Save the reform of Legislative Councils the Congress demands all relate to administrative details which a little sympathy and good sense of the rulers will secure in no time. Change in the Government tone has immediately brought about a corresponding change in the more "rational portion" of the Anglo-Indian Press, chiefest among whom is the *Indian Daily News*. It says:—'It is almost impossible for Englishmen imbued with the spirit of their own institutions, to regard with unfriendly feeling the aspirations of other people to the like forms of constitutional government. The Government cannot really be opposed to constitutional movements. It has been noticed that both in India and at 'Home' the Congress movement has recently been more favourably regarded than was the case in its initiatory and early stages. But it should not be overlooked that this modified feeling has been brought about by the more moderate tone of the late meetings of the Congress." Out of evil cometh good and in this light we are more glad than sorry of Sir Charles Elliott's initial mistake in prohibiting Government servants to attend the meetings of the Congress.

Latest News and Notes.

THE Cesarewitch on his public entry into the capital of British India on Monday last received an ovation that must have been gratifying to His Imperial Highness. The idea that the Imperial tour would not be attended with State formalities had to be abandoned owing to the Prince having been received in southern Europe with royal honors as befitting the rank of the heir to one of the most powerful monarchies of the world. As a consequence all the ceremonies attending the visit of the Prince of Wales in 1875 were scrupulously observed. The Viceroy and the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal went in state to Howrah to receive the royal guest and the route to the Government House was lined by troops who presented arms as the royal cortege passed. The Howrah Station, the Hoogly Bridge and the Old Court House Street shops were profusely decorated and the crowd of spectators along the route was as dense as was ever seen on such an occasion. Guards of honor were formed both at the railway station and at the Government House and an important feature of the display was that the procession included a Battery of Artillery. The bands played the Russian National Anthem as a compliment to the guests and Russian National flags were displayed among the decorations. The spectators cheered the Cesarewitch lustily as the procession passed and His Imperial Highness acknowledged the cheers very graciously indeed. He is a finely built young man looking every inch a Romanoff prince and looked very handsome in his Hussar uniform with a black bearskin busby bearing a tall white aigrette. Some of the Imperial Guards presented a very stalwart appearance with their gilt helmets, surmounted by double-headed eagles. Grand Duke George did not accompany his brother to Calcutta but Prince George of Greece was with him. At the Grand Stair case of the Government House the *elite* of Calcutta community, both Native and European, were present to receive the Prince to whom several leading officials and noblemen were introduced. There was a State dinner at night when His Imperial Highness proposed the Queen-Empress, and the Viceroy proposed, first, the Emperor of Russia and the King of Greece, and then the Cesarewitch and Prince George of Greece. No speeches of any kind were made. This was followed by a most successful Evening party in honor of the Royal guests who enjoyed the entertainment thoroughly. The idea of a ball had to be given up owing to a recent death in the Royal household of Russia and the intended trip to Darjiling also was abandoned. On Tuesday the Cesarewitch paid a visit to the Zoo and the Botanical Gardens and at night there was a dinner in his honor at the Belvedere. It was followed by a brilliant and largely attended reception. The prince paid the Mint and the Museum a visit on Wednesday and the same afternoon the Calcutta community had another opportunity of meeting the Prince when a successful garden party was given at the Government House in his honor. The departure of the Cesarewitch from Calcutta which took place on Wednesday was strictly private though His Excellency the Viceroy accompanied His Imperial Highness to the Railway Station. The Imperial party went direct to Bombay, where it arrived on Friday evening. His Imperial Highness went on board the Russian flagship at once. The Grand Duke George lay suffering from a feverish attack, which prevented his coming to Calcutta from Bombay. The Cesarewitch proceeded to Madras while his Imperial brother has gone straight to St. Petersburgh under medical advice. Most elaborate Police precautions were taken during thePrince's visit and the Police had orders immediately to arrest any suspicious character that they might come across. The Imperial mother of the Prince is naturally most anxious on his account and numbers of telegrams pass and repass every day between the mother and the son. The Princc is only 23 years old.

THE Honble Mr. Justice Norris goes on five months' furlough besides subsidiary leave. Mr. C. H. Hill probably officiates for him

WE are glad to learn from the *Englishman* that the bust of Lady Dufferin and Ava by the late Sir Edgar Boehm has arrived in Calcutta, and is now at the Chamber of Commerce. It is to be placed in the new Zenana Hospital, Calcutta, and the double ceremony of unveiling it and of opening the main block of the Hospital is likely to be performed by Lady Lansdowne about the middle of this month.

THE evening party at the India Club on Thursday last in honor of Sir Charles Elliott was as enjoyable as successful, and the gathering was large without being inconveniently numerous. Representatives of all sections of the community were present and amusements of sorts were provided including vocal and instrumental music and magic. The rooms were tastefully decorated and the terrace to the East was converted into a huge drawing room for the occasion. His Honor remained for nearly an hour and seemed to be well pleased with the preparations made for his reception. He succeeds Sir Steuart Bayley as the patron of the Club.

AT the prize meeting of the Free Church Institution on Thursday last Sir Charles Elliott laid due stress upon our young men being trained up in physical athletics as well as intellectual athletics. His Honor also appreciated the value of the cultivation of debating powers and was of opinion that the time has come for gradual withdrawal of Government and Christian Missions from the field of Education. The latter course might not be very much regretted, we are afraid, in the light of certain scandalous cases that have occurred of late, although the people are supremely grateful to the pioneer missionaries who made Western education a possibility in this country. The Government, however, cannot so early wash its hands off except perhaps in Presidency Towns where private undertaking may barely suffice. His Honor understood that a proposition had been put forward to amalgamate the General Assembly's Institution with the Free Church Institution, and so to have one school and one college. "That was a principle to which he, as the head of the local Government, wished to convey his strong adhesion and warm approval because, in matters of education, the Government desired to leave the field open to private enterprise; the efforts of the Government itself being concentrated to make more and more perfect the chief institutions, more especially the Presidency College in Calcutta."

THE Agricultural and Hoticultural Society will hold its annual flower-show early this month. The Kasipur Institute will hold its show on the Seven Tanks grounds on the 13th and 14th instant.

IT is stated that Mr. H. B. H. Turner will succeed Sir A. Wilson as representative of the mercantile community in the Viceroy's Legislative Council. Sir Alexander is about to retire from India for good. By his early retirement the non-official European community will lose a most useful member and the Calcutta charities a benefactor. Mr. Turner is a scholarly gentleman of cultivated tastes in whom the natives may well expect to find a friend.

THE Entrance Examination of the University commences to-day. The Tramways Company have thoughtfully provided special accommodation for the numerous candidates attending it at the Calcutta centre. Owing to the weather we are told much sickness prevails among them. The number of Examiners appointed are larger than ever. No examiner will be allowed to examine more than 700 papers for which four weeks' time is allowed. Any delay will entail a fine of 16 Rs. a day! The results ought to be out early.

THE Congress manifesto of the Government of India has found a very crooked commentator in the *Englishman*. The Hare Street sage observes :—

> The accepted method of the Congress seems to be a perpetual appeal to Parliament on all matters great and small, Mr. Bradlaugh acting as standing counsel, with Mr. Digby as instructing solicitor. Whether this is constitutional within the meaning of the above definition may well be doubted. A system of crooked and ill-informed interpellation is bound to be mischievous, and in a short time will probably come to be employed as a menace.

St. Stephen will be amused to hear that in Anglo-India an appeal to it is regarded as a menace by the guilty. That is beyond question the true key to official opposition to the Congress, for there is nothing to find fault with it in the abstract. Mr. Bradlaugh whose unceasing labours in the cause of his adoption have prematurely sent him to grave might well be spared these taunts when he was actually dying. We are sure that a good Englishman and true as he was he would not force the Scoble Bill down the throats of an unwilling people if he knew how very outrageous it is on their religion and social custom. Our contemporary is content with his learned emendations, and goes on to mix up questions that have little affinity to each other :

> It is certainly a wide stretch of imagination to speak of the Congress as an Indian counterpart of the "more advanced Liberal party" in Europe, The compliment is one of doubtful application. orthodox Hindus of the Congress would probably not care to be likened to European Radicals and Socialists, while members of any section of Liberal party in Europe would recoil with horror from association with the men who are opposing the Age of Consent Bill. And truly what a sham is this educated and enlightened body calling itself a Congress, with its "legitimate aspirations" to reform the Legislative Councils, and, in the Micawber-like language of Mr. Hume, to "promote the welfare of India and her people!" Apparently the passion for reform does not prompt it to support the Government in its endeavour to protect little children against brutal outrage.

If nothing short of adoption of the Scoble Bill will secure a certificate of civilisation the Conservatives in this country would much rather go without civilization and without the Congress if it must come to that. Let the go-aheads be against the Conservatives and make assimilation of the two parties an impossibility. The go-aheads advise non-resistance to the bill, lest our friends in England should set us down as barbarians and decline to support us any further. The conservatives would much rather go without the support if it must be purchased at so bitter a cost as sacrifice of religion. But they cannot pursuade themselves that their demand can be so unreasonable and so exacting. They have customs of their own which they honor as we do ours, some of which are as absurd as any in the world. Why should not there be perfect toleration of each other's views, and why need the Liberals and the Conservatives not join hands together in brotherhood and fellowship? We confess that the analogy is not happy, for in the Congress there is nothing liberal that is distinctive from the conservatism for it is of the Liberals and the Conservatives that it is a congress. The Government of India has overshot the mark and designing opponents of the movement do their best to improve the opportunity. The *Pioneer* also sings to something of this tune possibly because this is a nice opportunity to do the Congress a bad turn. *Pioneer* is not satisfied with the manifesto either. And naturally therefore it exclaims :

> It is singular perhaps that only in its declining days should the Congress have been able to extract from the Government a formal acknowledgment of its existence and an estimate of the reputation in which it is officially held. It will strike people as strange that Sir Charles Elliott, especially after his first warning against precipitancy, should have made a verbal declaration to a deputation anticipating the Viceroy's pronouncement. It is not usual at any rate in India for a junior authority to take the bread out of the mouth of a higher: but Sir Charles Elliott seems to have said in so many words, "the Viceroy in a few days is going to make an important declaration on this matter: *therefore* I will proceed to tell you what it is to be." This plan has many inconveniences, and among them the risk that the person, who anticipates in retailing his impressions of the higher authority's views may cause great confusion by a very trifling difference of language. In this case Sir Charles does not seem to have said much that can be laid hold of but there were expressions in his speech that went beyond the text of the Viceroy's reply, and at any rate the procedure itself is manifestly open to objection.

THE Select Committee on the Age of Consent Bill will commence their sittings this week. Why this indecent haste and hurry? Is the country on the verge of ruin that panic legislation is necessary? Inspite of opposition Government is said to be bent upon passing the obnoxious law during the current Sessions. The objects and reasons were clear upon the point: the Government is "determined" to raise the age. In England and in Parliament we can hope for no relief on appeal, which has surely emboldened Government to a considerable degree. There must, however, be no lull in the agitation, for we must do our duty.

WE are told that the rumour about Sir Charles Elliott's being opposed to the Scoble Bill in the main is not based on truth. We are not prepared to credit this, for we have the best of reasons to believe that Sir Charles and his worthy Chief Secretary are unwilling to interfere with the religious ideas of the people upon the by no means strong official testimony we have referred to elsewhere, upon which Sir Steuart Bayley on the eve of his departure based his conclusions. We do not believe the story about a Kulin Bramhin having converted the Lieutenant-Governor to the reform cause, for Sir Charles is far too strong and cautious a man to be easily talked over in that way. He would naturally be for conciliating the general public than the clamorous few and a conscientious ruler like him would not rashly launch social experiments distasteful to the bulk of the people. Sir Charles Elliott may possibly consider the Government of Bengal committed to the line of policy enunciated by Sir Steuart Bayley and may not as a legislator like to oppose what as the head of that Government he would be bound to uphold. In answer to this view of the case we can only point out to Sir Charles and his advisers that his predecessor in office had not the same facts and materials before him to judge the situation by as he has, and Hindu public opinion had neither been consulted nor so openly and so unequivocally been pronounced, before. Knowing the state of popular feeling about the Bill Sir Charles may be more disinclined than ever to support it, and we can only hope that His Honor will not leave Sir Romesh Chunder Mitter alone to fight by himself in Council the battle of Bengal where the feeling of anxiety and alarm seems to be the most acute. Sir Charles will wait for further facts, we are credibly informed, before finally making up his mind.

SOME few 'reform'-advocates who presume that they represent the people in all matters, including social and religious matters, amusingly enough are accustomed to tax the opposition leaders with non-observance of Hindu rites and customs in their entirety. Possibly some of these leaders may have to plead guilty to this mild indictment, but they do not thereby forfeit their right to defend the cause of their countrymen at large. Ramgopal Ghose was what was popularly known as a 'beef-eater' in those days, or in other words who did not closely conform to all the requirements of Hindu *Sastras*. But who dared ever breathe that there was a better son of a Hindu mother or a truer friend of the religion and customs that his fathers had followed and honored before him? Who stood more manfully or succeeded better in defence of those customs and usages, 'absurd and dangerous' as some of them appeared to the sanitary and social reformers of his days? Any one that has paid the slightest attention to the structure of Hindu society will not require very elaborate reasoning to be convinced, that its solidarity must be preserved at any cost and that its seeming absurdities and perversities, call them if you will, are a safeguard that even the goddess of reason cannot dispense with or replace. If Hindu religion has withstood Moslem and Christian and Budhistic onslaughts for years and ages and if it is to continue to do so in the near and distant future, this peculiarity must be remembered and honored or else Hindu religion and Hindu society will share the fates of those that have come long after it and are already gone. Hindu philosophers and sages had among them personages whose doings and teachings might perhaps be quoted in subversion of the system they supported just in the same way as modern defenders of the religion may be guilty of deeds and acts not in perfect consonance with generally accepted ideas and customs. Our catechists, however, forget that a system cannot be determined by what a few practise nor can the millions be held responsible for the misdoings for those few. A contemporary in a decidedly 'piggish' style finds fault with Babu Kallynath Mitter's advocacy of the Hindus, not because he dares call Babu Kallynath any thing but a good Hindu and true, but because in the course of a heated debate and more as a slip of the tongue than anything else he had allowed himself to say some years ago that a great many Hindus are *gokhaduks* or beef-eaters. We did not appreciate this expression coming as it did from an orthodox Hindu like Babu Kallynath Mitra. But viewing it in the light of recent events one would be inclined to regard Babu Kallynath's opinion as perfectly explicable, for he must have been feeling that everything was going wrong in our society, so far at least as its more advanced members were concerned. From the way in which the mischievous Bill is finding support among those who miscall themselves Hindus, one would be tempted to believe that the Hindus, if the supporters of the Bill are to come under that category, are exhibiting decidedly beef-eating propensities, and in this sense Babu Kallynath's aspersion was more prophetic than strictly in consonance with the existing state of things. His aspersion on go-aheadism does not preclude his condemning it in its latest phase and even those who are not quite so strict as he might be permitted to join him in advocating orthodoxy.

MR. JUSTICE TELANG has published in a Bombay newspaper a long article in which he deals with Sir Romesh Chunder Mitter's speech in opposition to the Age of Consent Bill. Mr. Justice Telang approves, without qualification, of the legislative proposal. Mr. Telang has long been known to be one of the foremost of 'reform' leaders in the Western Presidency and his reading of the Bengal School of Hindu Law will not go for much we are afraid. Whatever the so called "intelligent majority" of Bombay may say, it is a wellknown fact that the general public, who neither rush to the print, nor deliberate in meetings assembled, nor send telegrams to newspapers, is as much opposed to the law as we are in Bengal and elsewhere. Supposing the opposition were confined to Bengal proper, which is certainly not the case, Government would have to respect the opposition all the same. In Madras meetings have been held in its condemnation as also in Poona, Benares, and other places outside Bengal from where telegrams of sympathy have been received by the oppositionists in Bengal. We will take an early opportunity of reviewing Mr. Telang's paper.

BABU Amrita Lal Roy, Editor of the *Hope*, has written a very sensible letter to the *Statesman* on the Bill which will be read with interest. Babu Amrita Lal might have gone further and pointed to the severe restrictions regulating conjugal relationship among Hindus through-

out life, which precludes all supposition that early consummation is based upon anything like carnality, apart from some other asects of the question with which we have already dealt. The Hindu legislator with all the complexities of the law of inheritence wanted to take the earliest possible opportunity of ensuring progeny and this desire naturally became all the more marked and keen in the Bengal School under which the widow would have considerably larger rights than the widow in a Mitakshara family. A system of law the legitimate consequences of which at least as read by our existing Courts, would give the widow almost unrestricted rights over her husband's property even in cases of "*post mortem* unchastity" as some one has called it, would naturally provide for all possible safeguards against such contingencies, the foremost of which would of course be the existence of a son. Those who should take the question out of the pale of sociology but would make it one of pure physiology, should read Babu Amritalal Roy's letter with care. Appeal to *Jyotish Tattwa* and Susruta are appeals of the latter class upon which luminous explanation is hardly necessary.

A well-known Native Christian gentleman assures us that when the existing Christian Marriage Act was passed the community wanted the minimum marriageable age to be fixed at sixteen in the case of girls. The Law member in charge of the Bill thought it too high an age in a country like India and thirteen was the age fixed in cases where the girls had the consent of her parents. This affords a strange commentary on the present action of the Government. *Hindu* society with all its traditions and associations, which we shall suppose to be as immoral as some people call them to be, let alone climatic and other conditions, are to have twelve as the minimum age. Age of consent and age of marriage for practical purposes makes very little difference and it is astonishing that this fact connected with the Christian Marriage Act should have been so thoroughly ignored, possibly because of the convenience.

THE *Vaidik* sage of the *Mirror* asks :—

Manu has been described by the *Patriot* as "father,' and it is stranger that parental authority has not been referred to in this connection. In Manu's Chapter XI. on penance and expiation, Section 59 declares carnal commerce with little girls to be nearly equal to a violation of the paternal bed, and Section 171 says that wasting manly strength with girls under the age of puberty is equivalent to defiling the bed of a preceptor. Is the *Patriot* ashamed of its father's authority?

Not a bit. Pre-menstrual consummation is vehemently condemned by the *sastras* as every good Hindu knows. The Bill goes a good deal farther, and that is why there is so much opposition. Age limit is a mistake and the *sastras* wisely, therefore, place the limit at the attainment of puberty. As for some other questions that the great expositor of the Vedas asks in his innocence we would refer him to Pandit Sasadhar Tarkachuramani's recent brochure where translation of the text is given for the benefit of *sastric* reformers who do not, however, know anything of the *sastras*, and yet would quote them as a certain nameless personage is in the habit of quoting the Bible, they say.

MR. HUME has written a rhapsodical letter to the *Statesman* supporting the Bill, which, however, he has the good sense to explain in a postscript is written "of course" in his private capacity and not as GeneralSecretary to the Congress. But for this explanation it would have been necessary for the Congress to disclaim formally all sympathy with or responsibility for this valueless effusion, as had been necessary to do in connection with some other writings of Mr. Hume. The threat of the *Pioneer*, the *Englishman* and the *Times of India* that English sympathy with the Congress will be effectually alienated unless Hindus denounce and renounce their customs must have weighed with Mr. Hume, or else he would not be under the necessity, for the sake of the Congress as he supposes, of making the following statement. "As a fact the Congress party, as a party, are, grieved that any wing of theirs, however small, should have placed itself in opposition to this much-needed reform, *for which we, the great majority of the Congress party, memorialized Government from our Social Conference at Bombay only one year ago.*" The italics are not ours, but Mr. Hume's own, as he wants to emphasise his statement in the hope that that declamation will make up for what is wanting in accuracy. The matter has never come up for deliberation before the Congress, or, as Mr. Hume puts it, the "Congress party" and whatever the Social Conference may have said or done the "majority of the Congress party" never did, and will never do, let us hope, for the sake of the Congress, anything that Mr. Hume gratuitously attributes to them. Mr. Hume's letter contains two passages for which we may just make room here :

"For my part, if I had not been able to satisfy myself that the great majority of the party, taking the empire as a whole, was favourable to the change, I would have resigned the General Secretaryship and washed my hands of the entire party. I will do anything and everything for India, serve her as the humblest servant, but it must be *per fas* and not *per nefas*. As it is, even in Calcutta, a memorial in favour of the Bill is in progress of signature, *and will be signed by all who respect themselves and really have at heart the credit of their nation*, and I can only recommend the respectable members of the opposition, to look ahead, a little, and try and realise the comments that their own grandsons will make upon their conduct, and desist from taking part in a contest against the inevitable, in a contest which can only bring discredit on their heads, or their hearts, and on their countrymen, whom they are supposed to represent."

If the latter gentlemen be the majority of the Empire, we have no quarrel with Mr. Hume, for the public will know the value of their support full well, forming, as they do, the "intelligent majority" that the Government speaks of so very unctuously. As far, however, as the "unintelligent" majority is concerned, apprehension of alienating English sympathy, will not affect them in the least degree, for they would much rather do without the Congress "leaders", if the majority of the latter be of Mr. Hume's way of thinking than sacrifice their religious institutions and social traditions. The least we can say of Mr. Hume's thoughtless and mischievous letter is that it is most unfortunate that it should have been written at all, for it serves no useful end, one or the other way, but may tend to alienate an important section of the community from the Congress cause in the near future.

MR. HUME'S ill-considered letter will force the question being taken up by the Congress, at least by the different Standing Committees for the present, as coming within the domains of practical politics, when there is a Bill in connection with it before the Legislative Council. If, however, the Congress or the Standing Committees be anything of the mind of Mr. Hume, the Government will have achieved *the* object it has in view. Orthodox Hindus rightly or otherwise will conclude that their interests would not be safe in the hands of the Congress which would ruthlessly sacrifice their religion and customs in the light of its ideas of reform. They would thousand times prefer the reigning autocracy than an order of things in which it would be possible for go-aheads to trifle with their prejudices, let us call it, that have been respected by the same autocracy though in full power for a couple of hundred years and that now appear distasteful and objectionable after this lapse of time because there is a certain object in view, an integral great part of a deeply laid plan. There must be an irreparable split in the Congress camp, the Congresswallahs will be stigmatised by the British public as supporters of barbarous and inhuman customs, and the people must be made to divert their energies into the social from the politcal channel, to waste their strength in combating the Government in non-political matters and fritter away the poor resources that ought to have been husbanded and economised in a better cause. Political advancement will be denied till reform ideas of social well-being have been carried out and the beaurocracy without much effort on its part will have peace and quiet for a length of time that no other overt move would have secured.

ACCORDING to a recent telegram from Bombay some Mahrattas at a large meeting held at the Vadgadi under the auspices of the Satyashodhak Somaj, have passed a resolution supporting the Bill. This does not in the least affect the position of Bengal, supposing the meeting faithfully represents the Hindu public opinion in the Western Presidency. But of this we have grave doubts for the simple reason that in Bombay and Madras the 'reformers' have the upper hand in public questions of all descriptions, including political, and it is their opinion that is passed as public opinion. The real public is not yet initiated in the troublous arts of demonstration and agitation, and that is the real reason why outside Bengal the agitation has not gained ground as much as might be desired. Here is a real grievance which all true Hindus are bound to, and do as a matter of fact, feel and in their usually mild way they do not cry out as vehemently as their "educated brethern do. Those who for purposes of their own would put down the present agitation as artificial, know in the innermost recesses of their souls that there never was a more genuine expression of opinion, and if wire-pullers *could* create agitations on any thing like a vast scale there is no reason why it could not be created in, as well as outside, Bengal. It is the Presidency towns and Metropolitan districts where knowledge naturally makes the feeling most intense which find its way accordingly. The Income Tax, the Vernacular Press Act, and similar other matters did not find as strong condemnation in the country as in the towns, but for that reason the agitation connected therewith would not be more unnatural than the present. Soiling of one's own nest is a nasty and impolitic thing always.

ONE of the most remarkable meetings held in connection with the Scoble Bill was that of the Committee of the Indian Association on Tuesday last. Babu Amritanath Mitter of Chorebagan, one of the leaders of the orthodox Hindu community, was in the chair while the representatives of Brahmo and Christian communities, were decidedly in the majority. Thanks, however, to the good sense prevailing on both sides there was a concensus of opinion that the Hindu religious feeling which was pronouncedly strong on the question should be thoroughly respected and that nothing in the amended law could possibly be allowed to interfere with the religious customs and institutions of any sections of the community. With these reservations which sufficiently safeguard the Hindu interest, there is no objection to raise the age of consent to thirteen or any other age that may seem fit in the case of non-Hindus and to a higher figure still if you choose in the case of non-wives. The reply to the Government communication will be on these lines; the Committee have to decide on this because the "urgent" requisition of the Government imperatively demands that the reply should reach it by the 7th February at the latest which precludes the possibility of holding a general meeting. If our 'reformers' in general and the Government that takes its cue from it, were endued with as much good sense, much of the opposition to the Bill would at once disappear. With the reservations suggested by the Indian Association, as a mixed body as one could imagine, meeting on a positively neutral platform, as Mr. A. M. Bose put it, there is no real opposition to the Bill. With non-Hindus and non-wives you can do anything you like. But whether in these latter cases you will put the age limit at 13, 14 or higher still is for the physiologist that knows the country and for the economist to consider. The liberality of the Association in this latter regard will most effectively answer the *Pioneer* criticism about enlightened people defending a barbarous custom. We do not demand anything more than what is absolutely and impera-

tively demanded by our religious or social customs and with the rest you are perfectly at liberty to do as you like. The conciliatory attitude of the Indian Association will raise it universally in the estimation of the Hindu community.

THE Indian Association makes a valuable suggestion which ought not to be lost sight of in this connection There can be no such heinous a crime as rape between husband and wife whatever the age of the latter may be. What forms the really serious element in rape in addition to physical injury is moral degradation on the part of the girl which does not at all come in when you have to deal with a husband. If the girl is below 12 and physical injury is inflicted on her whether with or without her consent, the present law is sufficiently able to cope with the situation apart from the rape section as Sir Romesh Chunder Mitter pointed out in vain from his place in Council. What the Indian Association desires to emphasise is that the law should provide a much less severe sentence in the case of the husband than transportation for life and it considers that 3 years of hard labour would not be far below the mark. We express no opinion on the point. Another safeguard that might be provided in case of Hindus, we are told, would be that not only would the Police have no right to interfere, but that no magistrate should be allowed to issue process upon mere information or suspicion, but that processes can be issued only on the complaint on oath of some person responsible in the eye of law, and that the penalty for false information should be exceptionally severe. If what the Association contends can be conceded there is absolutely no necessity for amending the law so far as husbands are concerned.

THE object of the Bill is protection of child-wives as well as the prevention of immature prostitution. The provisions for the latter purpose appear to be strikingly insufficient. The Indian Association in common with ourselves and many others think that in case of strangers the age of consent can safely be raised to fourteen or sixteen if that will in any degree help in putting a discount upon prostitution which no legislation can put down. The argument about means being provided to brothel-keepers for levying blackmail on those frequenting their institutions on the pretence that a girl has not attained the legal age can be met by enacting those provisions of the English law that afford protection to the dupes of the procurer's art, if they had sufficient reason to believe *bona fide* in the representation of those concerned or otherwise, that the girl *had* attained the age. In a community in which widow-marriage is prohibited protection of child-widows, unable to judge for themselves, ought to be a matter of serious consideration, not that the injunctions of the *Sastras* and social customs are not an adequate safeguard where they are properly obeyed and observed. But with daily growing laxity in society some such artificial safeguard seems to be absolutely necessary in the case of non-wives. Of course undue strictness would lead to reactionery evils which also have to be guarded against. The panic legislation in England upon Mr. Stead's revelations about Modern Babylon which within eight hours of the memorable St. James' meeting made it a misdemeanour to have "carnal knowledge" of a girl between thirteen and sixteen, need not be copied here. But some safeguard is necessary all the same and the proposed amendment notoriously falls short of what is really wanted.

PUBLIC meetings in condemnation of the Bill are being daily held in every part of the country and numerously attended by enthusiastic opponents. As we said in our last issue it is simply impossible to notice the proceedings of these meetings or the meetings themselves for the matter of that, in anything like detail. A crowded meeting of the residents of Sherepur in Mymensing was held on the 23rd January to protest against the Bill. Great sensation prevailed. It was resolved unanimously to memorialise the Government of India to withdraw the Bill as it directly interferes with the religious and social customs of the Hindus, by interfering with the rites of *Garbhadhan*. Reports to the same effect have come from Khidderpur, Gopalpur, Dum Dum, Jeypur, Sinthi, Khurda, Chetla, Barisal, Faridpore, Hughly, Bogra, Pubna, Mymensing and Chittagong. Sunday before last a numerously attended public meeting of the residents of Howrah was held at the local Town Hall to protest against the Bill, the attendance including all sections of the Hindu community. Another meeting of a similar character was held yesterday at Sibpur. At a crowded and enthusiastic meeting presided over by Mahamahophadhya Sriram Shiromanee held at the Berhampore Girls' School on Sunday before last, where the *elite* of the town, a number of pundits, and graduates were present, resolutions protesting against theAge of ConsentBill so far as it affects the marital relation were passed. A memorial to His Excellency the Viceroy is to follow.

ON Wednesday a crowded open air meeting was held at the late Raja Prasanna Kumar Tagore's Ghat off Pathuriaghata. Paribrajak Kumar Sree Krishna Prasanna Sen addressed the meeting which enthusiastically condemned the Scoble Bill. Other successful open air meeting were held at the Beadon Square and the Wellington Square on Thursday and Friday, which also were addressed by the Kumar, and he addressed a rather crowded meeting yesterday at the Sobbabazar Natmandir. A protest meeting, was held at Chorebagan under the presidency of Pandit Madan Gopal Goswami on Saturday and meetings were held yesterday at Bhowanipur, Kidderpur, Bhukailash, Kharda, Shibpur and other places. At the preliminary meeting of our graduates at the Star Theatre, on Tuesday, the house was packed to its uttermost capacity and a second meeting is to be held tomorrow. Does Government want more pronounced public opinion? We trow not. The same thing is going on in the mafassil as we have elsewhere seen, and whole country from one end to another is ablaze with amazment and indignation.

THE *Mirror* is glad of the Mahomedan support to the Bill, gratuitously taking it for granted of course, as usual, that it is universal. If our contemporary had read the proceedings of the Sobhabazar meeting with any care he would have noticed that distinguished Zemindars like Abdul Sobhan Chowdhury of Pubna are in perfect sympathy with the opposition movement. The *Sudhakar*, a leading Mahomedan paper, strongly condemns the bill. The Hon'ble Nawab Ashanulla did indeed support the Bill when it was hastily referred to a badly constituted Select Committee on Friday before last. But even he had to admit—whatever explanation he might have to offer for it—that many Mussulmans were alarmed at the innovation. He further admitted that among his co-religionists girls frequently attain puberty at 10 and 11. The Madras Mahomedans are opposed to the Bill and sent telegrams of sympathy to the Sobhabazar Meeting.

THE *Advocate* of Lucknow has done good service by thus focussing public opinion in his part of the country.

The *Mohazza* of Lucknow says: "The matter on which there has continued to be difference of opinion in Mohamedan religious books for the last 1300 years, the Government is going to settle by this measure. This is the first step which the Government is taking in interfering with our domestic affairs. If this Bill becomes law, a time may come when Indian gentlemen may prefer death and suicide than allow their women to stand in open court as witnesses in such nauseating cases. Our women, who would not like that their voice be heard by other than close relatives, will now be compelled to come in open court to answer such nasty charges."

The *Kaisar-ul-Akhbar* of Karnal says: "An Indian would like to commit suicide rather than allow his wife, daughter, or sister to be examined by medical experts; so there will be immense difficulty in the working of the proposed measure."

The *Kohi-noor* of Lahore is opposed to any interference in the social customs of Hindus.

The *Khair Khewah Kashmir* of Lahore is of opinion that Government by passing this Bill will produce much discontent in the Hindu community.

The *Akhber Am* of Lahore is opposed to the Bill, but fears that when the Government has made up its mind to pass the measure no opposition will avail.

The *Nair-i-ng* of Agra strongly opposes the measure as interfering with the religion of the Hindus.

The *Tuhfa Hind* of Bijnour denounces those refermers who, being Hindus themselves, are yet supporting the Bill on religious grounds.

The *Punjab Gazette* of Sialkote says: "It is strange that the Government is going to interfere in the domestic affairs of Hindus and thus producing an unnecessary discontent in the community."

The *Hindustan* of Lucknow says: "If the Government really knows the feeling of the people on this matter, then it would mark how the administration of the country is being carried on, that even responsible persons have no faith in the Magistrates of the country. Much of the opposition arises from the fact that people are afraid of malicious prosecutions, of their utter disgrace even before the charge be established against them, of the utter helpless condition of the woman when her husband is sent to jail. The bill should be so amended that there should remain no fear of disgrace and ruin to the respectable families."

The *Bharat Jiwan* of Benares says: "They are enemies of both the people and Government who are inducing the Government to interfere in our domestic affairs and I assure the Government that the Shastras are in favor of its proposasl."

The *Najamul Ukhbar* is of opinion that by this step, the Government will strengthen the hands of the political agitators, who will go over the country with the cry of 'Religion in danger,' and rouse the feelings of the masses who are opposed to any interference in their religious matters.

The *Victoria Paper* of Sialkot exhorts the people to reform their own house themselves and ask the Government not to interfere in their domestic affairs.

OF course everywhere the luxury of public demonstration is not known except in 'reform' circles, who are always advanced to agitation tactics. But that is hardly any reason to conclude that public opinion is indifferent or in favour of the Bill. Memorialists from the district of Hoogly also say :—

If the said bill become law, too many cases, *false or true*, will be instituted in Courts of justice; wives, daughters, sisters and daughters-in-law will be dragged into Courts in connection with such shameful cases, or will commit suicide to avoid the shame and mortification of being subjected to medical examination, and many an innocent couple, whose marriage is never voidable, will have their wordly peace destroyed for ever; many a wife will lose her husband and suffer from wants of food and raiments, or die of starvation for the so-called offence of co-habitation with her husband.

A POPULARITY-hunting Marwari gentleman has rushed to the print in the name of his community in favour of this Bill. He will read the following with interest and will see that he does not represent his community :—

A meeting of up-country Hindus was held on Sunday last at Chota Doorga Prasad's Ghat, Barra Bazar, Calcutta, to discuss upon the contemplated law relating to the Age of Consent. Though the meeting was called on a single day's notice there were upwards of five hundred respectable men present on the occasion. Pandit Doorga Prosad, Pandit Sri Gopal Trivedi, Pandit Devi Sahai and a few other gentlemen delivered able and emphatic addresses showing the evils which must arise if the Bill were passed. The meeting lasted for nearly four hours, and it was resolved to address a memorial to the Viceroy setting forth their objections and praying that he Bill may be withdrawn.

THE following comes from Rajshahye :—

The President of the Hindu meeting held on the 18th January at Rampore Beaulia submitted the following memorial to the Private Secretary tot he Government of India :—"As President of a Hindu meeting held at Rampur Beauliah in the District of Rajshahye on 18th January last, I am directed to lay most respectfully and submissively the following resolution in connection with the "Age of Consent" Bill for favourable consideration of His Excellency, the Viceroy and Governor-General of India.

This resolution translated into English runs thus :—

Proposed by P. K. Bhattacheriya B. A. B. L., seconded by Pundit Ramtarun Tarkaratna, Mohesh Chandra Kabiratna, Harish Chandra Goswami, supported by Babu Ram Chandra Roy B. A. B. L., Akhoy Kumar Bhaduri L. M. S., Kabiraj Ananda Chandra Sen, and Pandit Siva Baran, and unanimously resolved that the "age of consent" Bill that is now before the Indian Legislative Council is entirely against the religious and social rules observed by the Hindus. That this meeting is of opinion that if any such Bill is passed into Law it will interfere with

the Hindu religion and will deeply mortify the Hindus in general. And that this meeting also strongly confirms the following resolution of the Beauliah Dharmasabha passed on 6th December last:--" Resolved--That this Dharmasava looks with alarm to the movements set upon foot by persons who are not strictly Hindus, with regard to Hindu Dharma Shastras; and that this Sava strongly protests against legislative interference by fixing any limit to the co-habitable age of Hindu married girls beyond the actual time of puberty in each individual case as provided in the Hindu Shastras."

The President of the Dogachi Hari Bhakti Pradayini Sava has submitted the following Resolutions to His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor-General of India in Council, passed at a meeting of the Sava held on the 20th January:--

Resolved:--That this Sava strongly protests against any legislative interference for the purpose of raising the age of consent of married girls, as such interference, in cases of Hindu girls, is calculated in some instances to interfere with the religious observance of one of the Sanskars prescribed by the Shastras.

Resolved further that in view of the already existing safe-guards provided by law, such an enactment, besides being useless, will be fruitful of vexatious prosecutions and domestic unhappiness.

Another petition numerously signed by ryots, cultivators and other people of lower order of Dogachi and other villages of Pubna has been submitted to His Excellency the Viceroy. The petitioners express great alarm in view of its introduction in the Supreme Council and pray that His Excellency in Council will be pleased to revoke it, thereby showing his deference to the religious feelings of the loyal subjects of Her Majesty and saving them from vaxation, harassments and official oppressions.

The Pandits of Benares have condemned the Bill as unequivocally as Bengal pandits. A meeting of the former, convened by Babu Pramada Dass Mitra, one of the foremost citizens of the holy city, was held on the 25th ultimo, when the pandits present unanimously opposed the Bill. The opinion given by them was signed by forty-two pandits.

AT a public meeting of the residents of Bogra, Hindus, Mahamedans, etc., held at the premises of Syed Abbas Sobhan Chawdhry, Zemindar, presided over by Khaja Ajizuddin, Zemindar, Honorary Magistrate, it was resolved (1) that in the opinion of the meeting Government should not raise the age of consent by legislative enactment. (2) That a petition be submitted to the Government, protesting against the measure, contemplated in the Bill.

The following telegram comes from Bankipur:—

At a meeting of Mahamohopadhyas, Adhyapaks and numerous other distinguished pandits of Benares, Mithila, Behar, Navadwipa and other districts of Benga assembled here, the Age of Consent question being mooted it was unanimously held that the Bill was contrary to the letter and spirit of Hindu Sastras and would, if passed, materially interfere with the religious rites of Hindus.

The following is from Chittagong:—

At a crowded and enthusiastic meeting held under the presidentship of Babu Kamal Kishna Sen attended by several pandits, it was unanimously resolved that a memorial be submitted to His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor-General of India, entreating him to withdraw the Age of Consent Bill as it directly interferes with the religious and social customs of the Hindus.

DR. de JONGH'S LIGHT-BROWN COD LIVER OIL.—PRE-EMINENTLY THE COD LIVER OIL FOR USE IN INDIA, AND IN WARM CLIMATES.—Joseph J. Pope, Esq., late Staff-Surgeon, Army, Professor of Hygiene, Birkbeck Institution, London, writes:—"I found during my Indian experience that the worth and character of Dr. de Jongh's Light-Brown Cod Liver Oil remained unchanged by tropical heat or foreign climate, and it was, form its uniformity of character, particularly adapted for long-continued administration. Further, I have noticed the important fact, that Dr. de Jongh's Cod Liver Oil, besides containing all the active constituents of the remedy, is easily assimilated, without the stomach derangement so frequently following the use of the ordinary Oils. The value of 'hydro-carbons in all debilitated states of the system is now becoming thoroughly recognized; and it is without doubt, from the animal oils and fats, rather, than from their vegetable substitutes, that we may hope to derive the surest benefit. The Oil of Dr. de Jongh's places in every one's reach a reliable and valuable remedy, one that cannot be too widely recognized'. Dr. de Jongh's Light-Brown Cod Liver Oil is sold only in capsuled imperial half-pints, pints, and quarts with his stamp and signature and the signature of his sole consignees on the capsule and the label under wrapper, by all chemists, druggists, and storekeepers. Sole Consignees Ansar, Harford and Co., 210, High Holborn, London.

NOTICE.—Messrs. Ballantine and Sons, 11, Hornby Row, Bombay, will send samples of Dr. Rabuteau's Iron Dragees free by mail, to any physician desirous of experimenting and comparing them with other ferruginous preparations. In Russia, the Medical Board of Health of St. Petersburg, after careful study of the subject has ordered the importation of Rabuteau's Iron Dragees as a *medicine of public utility*. Rabuteau's Iron is adopted in the Paris Hospitals and in the large Institutions. In the most trying climates, Rabuteau's Iron produces good effcets,

THE French Medical Faculty's advice.—The report approved by the Paris Academy of Medicine, states that persons afflicted with affections of the stomach dyspepsia, gastralgy, bad digestion and suffering the most awful pains, have been cured completely by the use of Doctor Belloc's Charcoal powder or pastilles which are sold by all chemists.

MEMORY. LOISETTE'S System. A Cambridge University Lecturer (Dr. R. N. Ingle) was (Jan. 1890). "much impressed with the possibilities of improvement to Memory which the LOISETTE Lessons open up." „I derived great benefit from your lessons, though at first prejudiced against them by the misrepresentations of Mr. Applebr."—Dr. Geo. Herschell, Physician to the West End Hospital for Diseases of the Nervous System, London. 'In three weeks I was able to memorise the names, etc., of 400 men."—Major Jamieson. Bengal C. S "Having seen the base attempt to rob you, I send, unsolicited, the statement that your system is of great advantage to strong memory, incalculable aid to weak one."—Rev. Dr. J. M Buckle. Excellent travelling companion.'—Capt. J. B. Haye R. N. Wonderful aid to memory."—Mirza Saderud-din Khan. "Invaluable."—J. J. Francis, Q. C „Does not involve much labour."—*Statesman*, 23rd Oct. 1887. "Tremendously popular in Oxford.'—*Pall Mall Gazette*, 4th February. 1890. Prospectus Free. One Pupil, Rs. 76; Ten pupils, Rs. 19 each. Apply to F. Fisk-Williams, 71, Elliot Road, Calcutta or to A. LOISETTE, 37, New Oxford Street, London, England.

THE HAVEN OF HEALTH.

Brimingham, Saturday Night.

IN our issue of *Saturday Night* (March 1st, 1890) we published the thrilling story of how Thomas Durrant was literally snatched back from the grave. A narrative like that, teeming with interest, and better still bearing truth's hall mark on every line, reminds us once more that fact is stranger than fiction. When Tom Durrant left the hospital he was dying, the doctors said they had done their best for him and could do no more.

Of his illness, his terrible sufferings, we have spoken before. Everything had failed and there seemed nothing for it but for a mother to bow her head with tearful resignation over the sick bed, around which the shadows of the spirit-world appeared to be rapidly stealing. We have spoken of the fierce battle which was waged with disease, ending in a glorious victory for that truly wonderful medicine known as Warner's "SAFE" Cure.

Our representative called upon Thomas Durrant, 79 Camp-hill, Birmingham, the last week of February, a full account of the interview appearing in the following issue of *Saturday Night*. We left the young man very weak and thin, but still able to get about with the aid of a stick.

Owing to business and other reasons, we did not call again until Monday last, June 9, when late in say afternoon we were once more ushered into the consitting-room of 79, Camp-hill, by Mrs. Durrant.

"Here he is. Tom, you remember this gentleman, don't you?" Thus spoke the mother as young Durrant entered the room. We shook hands, and during the preliminary greetings we took the opportunity of closely scrutinising the invalid. He had altered greatly since last we had seen him. During our first interview (February) he had been wrapped up in shawls, used a stick in walking across the room, and seemed almost too weak to stand up straight. On Monday he walked into the room as straight as a dart and without a stick, also dispensing with the shawals he had worn at our last meeting.

In answer to our inquiry as to how he was getting along, he said, "Famously," thanks. Yes, I look very different to what I did when you were here last. Then, if you remember, I had not been allowed to go out; but I passed that stage by some time, and now get out for a walk in the bright, warm sunshine every day when the weather will permit.

All the signs of dropsy have gone, and all that I have left of the paralysis is a slight stiffness in the left leg and fingers. I have splendid appetite, and can feel myself getting stronger every day. I am not only alive, for which alone I might well feel thankful, but I am alive and promising to live many more years yet. And all this simply from one cause. I feel a lump rising in my throat as I think of it. I should have been lying in my grave months ago but for Warner's 'SAFE' Cure.

This, gentle reader, is a plain, simple, unvarnished narrative of how Thomas Durrant was "Brought back from the grave." The facts as told here can be proved to the entire satisfaction of all who are suffering themselves, or who have any near and dear one suffering from perhaps the most fatal disease known to modern science. There is no puff about this; this is no newspaper flam. Thomas Durrant is known to each member of the staff of this paper. His recovery has been a subject o congratulation and, marvellous though the recovery has been, one and all of us can easily and gladly testify to the truth of this narrative.

This great remedy can be had at the Bazaars and of all Chemists throughon the world, or of Ballantyne and Sons, Bombay, Calcutta, and Madras.

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Government Notification.

Calcutta Gazette. – *January* 28, 1890.

GENERAL.—Moulvi Gowar Ali, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Monghyr, is appointed to perform the functions of a Collector under Section 4 of the Public Demands Recovery Act VII (B. C.) of 1880 in that District.

Babu Ramanugraha Narain Singh, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector is appointed to perform the functions of a Collector under Section 4 of the Public Demands Recovery Act VII (B. C.) of 1880 in the District of Gya.

Mr. R. M. Waller, Officiating Magistrate and Collector, Monghyr, is confirmed in that appointment,

Babu Dina Nath Dey, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Midnapore, is appointed to have charge of the Contai Sub-Division of that District.

Captain C. W. Thomas, Northern Bengal Mounted Rifles, is allowed leave of absence for nine months, with effect from the 1st February next.

Lieutenant Charles Lewis Taylor of the 3rd Punjab (North-Western Railway) Volunteer Rifle Corps, is appointed to be Lieutenant in the Eastern Bengal State Railway Volunteer Rifle Corps, vice Lieutenant J. A. Anderson, transferred to the supernumerary list

The Lieutenant-Governor is pleased to accept the resignation tendered by the undermentioned Officers of their Commission in the Presidency Volunteer Reserve Battalion :—Captain John Cameron Guest Kiernander, and Second Lieutenant Henry Hamilton Rowe.

Mr. H. Cox, Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector, is posted temporarily to the Sudder Station of the 24-Pergunnahs District.

Babu Digendra Nath Pal is appointed to act as a Sub-Deputy Collector of the second grade in the District of Gya during the absence, on leave, of Babu Dina Nath Chuckerbutty or until further orders.

Mr. C. R. Mariudin, Magistrate and Collector Durbhunga, is allowed furlough for one year, under Article 340 (b) of the Civil Service Regulations, with effect from the 1st March, 1891 or such subsequent date as he may avail himself of it.

Mr. H. C Streatfeild, C. S., is appointed to be substantive pro tempore Under-Secretary to the Government of Bengal in the Financial and Municipal Departments, with effect from the 12th November, 890.

Mr. W. B. Oldham, Magistrate and Collector, Burdwan, is appointed to act temporarily as Magistrate and Collector of Chittagong.

Mr. A. C. Tute Magistrate and Collector, Cuttack, on furlough, is appointed to act as Magistrate and Collector of Burdwan, during the absence, on deputation, of Mr. W. B. Oldham, or until further orders.

Mr. R. W. Carlyle is appointed to act, until further orders, in the first grade of Joint-Magistrates and Deputy Collectors and is posted to the Sudder-Station of the District of Chittagong, on being relieved of his present appointment as Officiating Magistrate and Collector of that District.

Baboo Ram Churn Lal, Deputy Magistrate, and Deputy Collector, Gya, is transferred to the Sadar Station of the District of Shahabad.

Babu Raj Kissore Narain, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Shahabad, is transferred to the Sudar Station of the District of Gya.

Babu Ram Churn Bose, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, 24-Pergunnahs is allowed leave for three months, under Article 291 of the Civil Service Regulations. with effect from the date on which he availed himself of it.

Moulvi Fuzlal Karim, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Nilphamari, Rungpore, is vested with the powers of a Collector under Act X of 1870 in that District.

JUDICIAL.—In supression of the order of the 29th July, 1890, the Munsiff of Chattra, Hazâribagh, is appointed to perform the functions of a Judge under Act X of 1870 within the jurisdiction of the Chattra Munsifi.

Babu Sham Chand Dhur, Subordinate Judge of Gya, is allowed leave for one month, under article 306 (b) of the Civil Service Regulations, in extension of the leave granted to him under the order of the 16th December, 1890.

The Lieutenant-Governor accepts the resignation tendered by Baboo Seo Churn Lall of his appointment as an Honorary Magistrate of the Assansole Bench, in the District of Burdwan.

The undermentioned gentlemen are appointed to be Honorary Magistrates of the Bench at Assansole in the District of Burdwan, and are vested with the powers of a Magistrate of the third class :—

Babu Janoki Nath Mukerji and Mr. William Miller.

Babu Rabi Chunder Ganguly, Munsiff of Bazitpore, Mymensingh, is appointed to act as an Additional Subordinate Judge in the District of Dacca during the absence, on furlough, of Babu Anund Kumar Sarbadhicary, or until further orders.

Babu Sarat Chunder Pal, B. L., is appointed to act as Munsiff in the District of Mymensingh, to be ordinarily stationed at Bazitpore, during the absence, on deputation of Babu Rabi Chunder Ganguly, or until further orders.

Babu Kedar Nath Mukerji is appointed to be an Honorary Magistrate of the Independent Bench at Sury, in the District of Birbhum, and is vested with the powers of a Magistrate of the third class.

Advertisements.

NOTICE.

Is hereby given that Probate of the last will and Testament of Babu Sham Churn Law deceased late of No. 223, Cornwallis Street, in Calcutta, a Zemindar, has been granted by the High Court of Judicature at Fort William in Bengal in its Testamentary and Intestate Jurisdiction of his son Babu Chundee Churn Law one of the Executors therein named reserving power of making the like grant to the other executors therein named when they shall come and pray for the same.

SWINHOE AND CHUNDER
Attorneys-at-Law.

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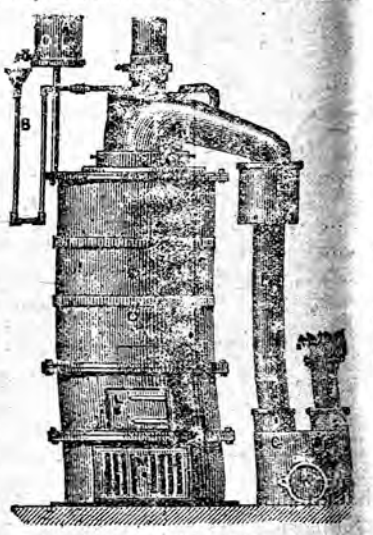

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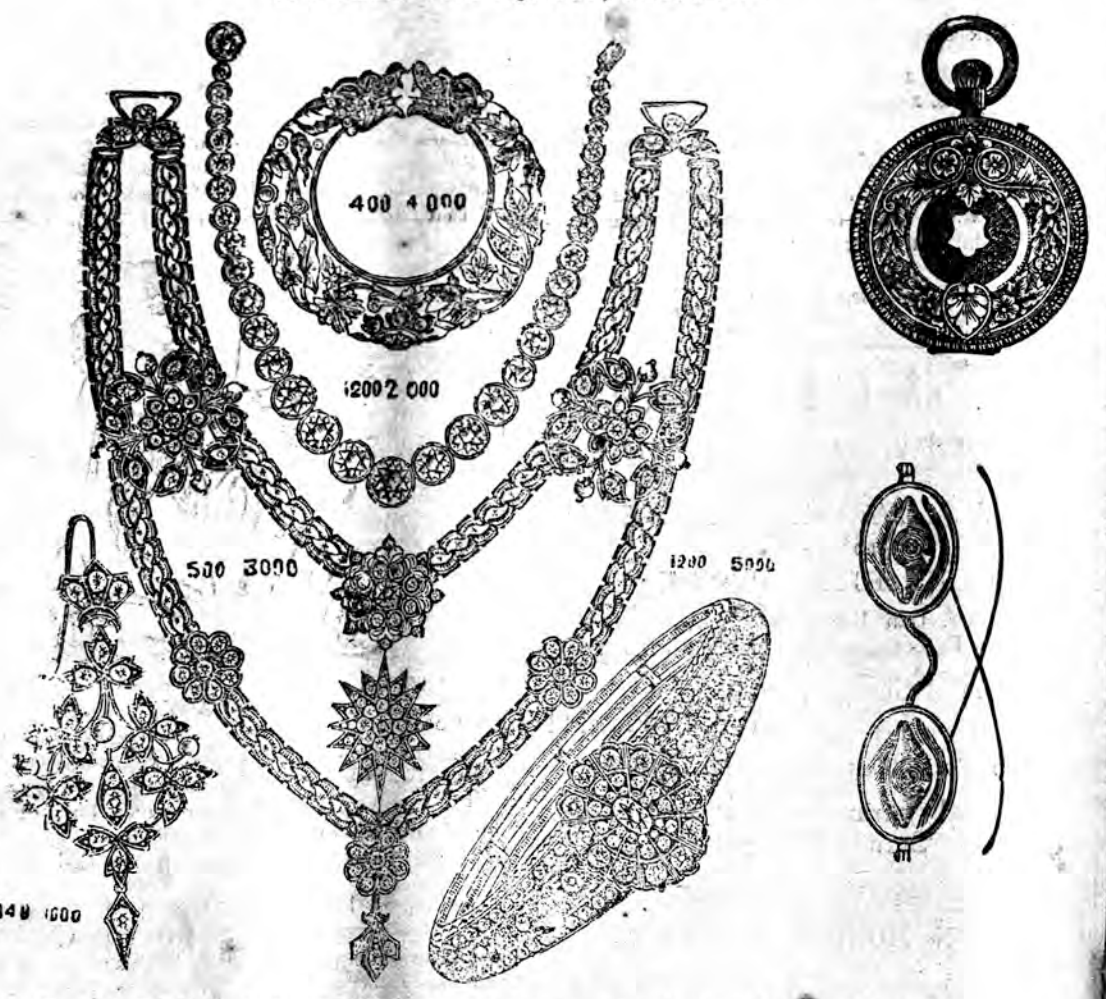

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